

STARS AND STRIPES®

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**Manning might be
remembered for
records, not rings**

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2004

50¢

Shopping season

With Christmas on the horizon,
Americans home and abroad flock
to stores on 'Black Friday'

Pages 3, 10



AP



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Left: Both Wright gets change back after buying Christmas wrapping paper, candy canes and other holiday goodies Friday afternoon at the Naples, Italy, Navy Exchange. Wright and her husband, Chief Petty Officer Randall Wright, right, joined hundreds of others on what is traditionally America's busiest shopping day. A Naples NEX official said he expected Friday would be its busiest day of the year.

Above: Meanwhile, in the states, customers swarm the toy department Friday at a Kohl's in Taylor, Mich., taking advantage of the early bird specials. Bargain shoppers woke up before dawn to purchase a range of items from toys to TV sets.

STARS & STRIPES

COMING
SOON

Scene on Sunday

SpongeBob flick
not very absorbing

Scene on Sunday

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Slain deer hunters: Mourners gathered at a funeral parlor on Thanksgiving Day to remember one of six deer hunters killed in a shooting in Wisconsin's northwoods last weekend. Friends and hunting buddies described 28-year-old Mark Roidt as a friendly, outgoing man, a jack-of-all-trades in carpentry and construction work who loved hunting, motorcycling and other motor sports.

"He's just a warm-hearted, good-spirited guy," said Sarah O'Donnell, who knew Roidt for 12 years.

His first visitation to be held for a victim of Sunday's shooting. Roidt's funeral was scheduled for Friday, with funerals for the others to be held Saturday or next week.

Authorities said the six were killed and two others wounded after a confrontation with a hunter from Minnesota who was trespassing on private land. Chai Vang, 36, remains held on \$2.5 million bail pending formal charges.

Court records show that Vang, an immigrant from Laos, told authorities that the hunters surrounded him and used racial slurs before one fired a shot at him. One of the survivors gave a different account, saying Vang started shooting first.

Scott Peterson trial: Rejected by the trial judge and an appeals court, Scott Peterson's lawyer asked the California Supreme Court on Wednesday for a new jury and a change of venue for the trial's penalty phase.

Attorney Mark Geros filed the motion a day after a state appeals court ruled Peterson's sentencing will be decided by the same jury that convicted him of murder Nov. 12. The three-judge panel of the 1st District Court of Appeals denied the petition just hours after Geros filed it.

After a five-month trial, Peterson, 32, was convicted of one count of first-degree murder in the death of his pregnant wife, Laci, and one count of second-degree murder for the death of her fetus. The penalty phase is scheduled to begin in Redwood City on Tuesday.

Geros claims the jury that found Peterson guilty is now tainted by public opinion, citing a frenzied mob who cheered outside the courthouse as the guilty verdicts were read and "abnormally huge" newspaper headlines.

GOP convention lawsuit: Saying New York City officials had created their "own little Guantanamo on the Hudson" during the Republican National convention, a lawyer filed a lawsuit on behalf of nearly 2,000 people arrested at demonstrations.

The federal lawsuit filed Monday claims protesters and bystanders alike were rounded up in mass arrests without cause; were kept without access to their lawyers or families at an old bus depot used as a temporary detention center; and were exposed for days to cruel and inhuman conditions.

The lawsuit asks for unspecified damages.

"All that was missing were the orange jumpsuits," the lawyer, Jonathan C. Moore, said. "Under the guise of terrorism and the fear of terrorism, we are all losing our rights."

Business

W.R. Grace & Co. woes: W.R. Grace & Co. said Friday it is likely to be indicted in the first quarter of 2005 by a federal grand



Visiting with troops during the holiday: Afghan President Hamid Karzai, right, meets with the head of U.S. Central Command, Gen. John Abizaid, in the presidential palace in Kabul on Friday. Abizaid, who commands American forces in both Iraq and Afghanistan, met with Karzai after visiting troops for Thanksgiving.

jury in Montana if it cannot reach a settlement with prosecutors over possible violations of federal environmental laws.

In a Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the chemical company said it had received a letter from the U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana on Oct. 29 informing the company of the investigation, which relates to the company's former vermiculite mining and processing activities in Libby, Mont.

W.R. Grace said it is likely to be indicted early next year unless it reaches a resolution with the government.

World

Abducted U.N. workers: Three U.N. workers, including a Filipino, held captive for almost a month in Afghanistan were "voluntarily released" by their captors and were not rescued by the military, a Philippine official said Friday.

"They were voluntarily, intentionally dropped off," Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Jose Brillantes told reporters. "There was no military rescue that led directly to the deliverance of the hostages."

A militant group linked to the former hardline Taliban regime claimed to have held Filipino diplomat Angelito Nayan, Annetta Flanigan of Northern Ireland and Kosovar Shipke Hebbel after they were seized on Oct. 28 in Kabul.

Convicted Muslim cleric: A Muslim cleric convicted of inciting violence against women has been ordered to serve a previously suspended prison sentence because of the "social danger" he poses.

Mohamed Kamal Mustafa, imam at the mosque in the southern town of Fuenigrola, Spain, received a court order Wednesday to serve his 15-month sentence behind bars.

Mustafa was sentenced in January in Barcelona, but his prison term was suspended because it was his first conviction — a normal practice in Spain for sentences under two years.

Mexico mob killing: Investigators have identified at least six people suspected of burning alive two federal agents they believed were kidnappers, federal authorities said Thursday.

The six were among 31 people captured during a massive raid on San Juan Ixtayopan, a town on outskirts of Mexico City where dozens of locals on Tuesday severely beat three plainclothes federal agents, then killed two by throwing paint thinner on them and setting them ablaze, said Deputy Attorney General Gilberto Higueria.

Among those arrested in the vigilante slayings was a 16-year-old boy, Higueria said at a news conference. He refused to confirm radio and newspaper reports that the youngster was the one who started the fires, however.

Gitmo military tribunals: An alleged high-ranking official of the ousted Taliban regime was among three prisoners who appeared Wednesday before U.S. military review tribunals in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The 46-year-old former Taliban official had a Kalashnikov rifle when captured and has been held at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo for about a year, said Navy Lt. Gary Ross, a spokesman for the Combatant Status Review Tribunals.

Ross declined to say what position the prisoner held in the Taliban government or if he ever engaged in combat.

The military only releases unclassified portions of the allegations against prisoners who go before the review tribunals, which attempt to determine whether the 550 detainees in Guantanamo are correctly held as "enemy combatants" or should be freed.

Six-way nuclear talks: Representatives of six nations trying to end a dispute over North Korea's nuclear weapons development will hold informal talks in Beijing in mid-December, a news report said Friday.

Chief delegates of the six nations would meet for two or three days between Dec. 15 and Dec. 23, said South Korea's KBS-TV, quoting a senior South Korean government official.

KBS quoted the official as indicating that North Korea agreed to join the discussions aimed at settling the date and other terms for reopening official talks between the Koreans, China, Japan, Russia and the United States.

Foreign Ministry officials could not confirm the report.

Al-Qaida members released: Yemeni authorities have released 113 militants belonging to the al-Qaida network — including at least five once accused of involvement in the deadly bombing of the USS Cole — after they recanted their extremist views, security officials said Thursday.

The militants once accused in the USS Cole bombing were later released.

The 15 Yemeni militants convicted in August of involvement in the 2000 bombing, which killed 17 U.S. sailors, were not released.

The 113 men were released during the past two weeks after signing pledges not to carry out terror acts or criminal activities.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Finns take over Multinational Task Force North

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — It's still a few days before he officially takes command of Multinational Task Force-North. But Finnish Brig. Gen. Juha Kilpiä told the people of Bosnia they wouldn't notice a difference when he assumes control of an area that Americans have been in charge of since late 1995.

The transition, would be "seamless and have a minimal impact on the Bosnian people. We will maintain the same safe and secure environment that SFOR presented to us," he said during a news conference Friday.

It might not be much of a surprise if changes in command, because Finnish troops have been a part of the Stabilization Force mission for as long as Americans have. In fact, Kilpiä commanded the Finnish battalion of troops that initially entered the country with its counterparts from the United States.

They'll now lead one of the three sectors in Bosnia as the European Union takes over the mission from NATO on Thursday. The British lead the sector to the west and the French command in the south. All told, Kilpiä said there would be about 7,000 troops from 33 countries participating in Operation Althea — commonly being called EUPOR.

Althea's personnel, the force already has been serving in SFOR. Members will essentially just change patches on their uniforms. In addition to the American pull-

out, Canadian forces departed as well.

Kilpiä, whose rank is prikahtenraali in Finnish, will lead a multinational force at Eagle Base that will still use English to communicate with each other. Other countries with troops in the sector include: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden and Turkey.

He said there would be roughly the same number of troops in the sector — about 1,800 — as there are now.

There will still be about 150 American troops at Eagle Base and 100 more near Sarajevo. All will be taking part in a continuing NATO mission under the command of U.S. Brig. Gen. Steven Schook.

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Timothy Wright, the outgoing commander of Task Force Eagle, said he is confident of the EU force's ability to effectively control security in the sector.

"I am proud, very proud of them and their commitment to excellence," Wright said at the news conference. He also pointed out that American forces aren't totally abandoning missions in the country. The force under Schook will help train Bosnian forces, work with them in Partnership for Peace initiatives and continue to hunt for war criminals indicted by The Hague, in the Netherlands.

Gen. B.B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe commander, said earlier in the week that those thinking the pullout of most Americans presented an opportunity to cause



KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Timothy Wright, left, and Finnish Brig. Gen. Juha Kilpiä answer questions during a news conference Friday in Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Wright is giving up command of Task Force Eagle as Stabilization Force ends its mission. Kilpiä will be the new commander of Multinational Task Force-North when the European Union takes over from NATO on Thursday.

trouble would be making a mistake. He said thousands of American soldiers in Italy and Germany could re-enter the country quickly if they were needed to support their European allies.

German peacekeepers

Meanwhile, German parliament on Friday cleared the way for its troops to take part in the new European Union-led peacekeeping mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where they have been serving in a NATO force since 1995.

The lower house voted over-

whelmingly, 583-7, for the deployment.

The EU force named Althea — the largest EU-led military operation so far — is taking over on Dec. 2.

It will total about 7,000 troops, similar to NATO's Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina that has been there since the end of the 1992-1995 war.

Germany's contingent will remain at 1,100. Defense Minister Peter Struck told parliament Friday.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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16,600 still missing, says Red Cross

The Associated Press

GENEVA — The International Red Cross said Thursday that it was still looking for 16,600 people missing from the war in Bosnia, almost a decade after the conflict in the Balkan nation.

"The sheer numbers express better than anything else the anxiety of so many who have lived so long in uncertainty," said Werner Kaspar, head of Bosnia operations at the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Since the end of the 1992-95 war, painstaking work by the Red Cross and other organizations has resolved 5,000 cases of missing people. Most have been confirmed dead, often through forensic analysis of bodies, ICRC officials said.

Bosnia is littered with mass graves from the conflict, which was marked by the slaughter of up to 8,000 Muslim men and boys in July 1995 when Bosnian Serbs overran the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica.

The Swiss-based ICRC has published six editions of its Book of the Missing from the Bosnian conflict, listing names and places of disappearance of people whose fate thousands of families are trying to discover.

Holiday shoppers scout exchange for perfect gifts

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

The security guard's warning said it all: "Good luck finding a parking space."

The holiday rush hit the Naples, Italy, Navy exchange and commissary complex Friday on what is traditionally America's busiest shopping day of the year: the day after Thanksgiving.

Petty Officer 1st Class Jose Delesius and his wife, Wanda, said they were willingly fighting the crowds for the exchange's advertised sales.

They had lunch at the crowded food court before making their way to look for Christmas gifts.

They expect to spend about \$500 for "seven or eight people, mostly kids," he said.

"We've gotta buy me a gift and her a gift," he said, nodding across the table to his wife.

"I'm easy. I'm low budget," he said. But what about Wanda?

Shaking her head side to side she explained: "No, I want diamonds."

Chief Petty Officer John Musser just wanted a telephone and a movie.

My phone broke and I wanted a DVD to watch over the weekend," he said. "I walked in the exchange and rapidly left because of the crowds."

"I thought 'there must be a sale



SANDRA JONTZ/Stars and Stripes

Michael Gotshall loads a Christmas tree into the trunk of his car at the Navy Exchange in Naples, Italy. The live tree, which still has roots attached, will last for years, he said. The exchange sold about 15 trees by early Friday afternoon.

today," he said. "I forgot it was the day after Thanksgiving. That would explain why there are all these people here."

Musser did get his phone and DVD, even after an initial unsuccessful hunt through the base electronics department.

Michael Gotshall got a Christmas tree at the exchange's outdoor plant-and-flower shop.

"I wanted something that has roots ... so we don't have to kill it," he said, loading the 7-foot tree into the back of his car.

Plant store saleswoman Mercedes Eged said they had sold about 15 trees by Friday afternoon, and had received them only a few days earlier.

Finishing a late fast-food lunch, Petty Officer 1st Class Carlos Garcia, his wife, Gina, and three of their four children prepared to leave the exchange after a successful shopping day.

"It was a little bit of everyday shopping and Christmas shopping," he said. "It just so happened we needed to come here today."

Next to their table was a cart bulging with white Navy Exchange bags. Despite the crowds, they said, everything went smoothly, except for one thing.

"Our only problem was parking," he said.

They had been warned.

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75 workers block main gate at Rota

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — Spanish base workers briefly blocked the main gate to the naval station on Thanksgiving day, protesting plans to cut the work force by 75 employees.

Hundreds of workers gathered near the gate around 7 a.m. and stopped traffic for an hour. The protest attracted additional police to the naval station entrance but the demonstration was peaceful.

The blockade had little effect on Americans stationed at the base because most of them had the day off for the holiday. The naval station also routinely keeps two other gates open to traffic.

Employees are planning more protests next week, Spanish workers and union representatives said Friday. However, they have not decided whether to demonstrate in Rota or Cadiz, the province's capital.

Earlier this month, Spanish employees received news about the civil force cuts from Spain's Ministry of Defense. The U.S. government indirectly hires about 1,150 Spanish civilians through the Spanish government to work at the naval station.

The Spanish navy shares the base with 3,000 active-duty U.S. military personnel.

Base labor unions have staged numerous demonstrations and protests in the last four years demanding more take-home pay. A change in tax laws in 1999 slashed some salaries as much as 25 percent.

Employees have recently focused most of their ire on possible future work force reductions as the U.S. Navy candidates have supplied services in Europe and looks for ways to save money.

E-mail: Scott Schonauer at: schonauer@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Green Zone attack kills 4 British employees

Rebel ambush in Fallujah leaves two Marines dead, three wounded

BY MARIAM FAM
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A mortar attack killed four employees of a British security firm and wounded at least 12 in Baghdad's Green Zone, a fortified area that houses the U.S. and Iraqi leadership, the company and British officials said Friday.

Insurgents in Fallujah ambushed U.S. troops as they entered a home during house-to-house searches in the former rebel bastion, killing two Marines and wounding three others, the U.S. military said Friday.

In the northern city of Mosul, 21 bodies have been found in the past two days and in around the area shaken by an insurgent uprising, the U.S. military said Friday. In all, 41 corpses have been discovered in the past week.

Britain's Foreign Office said the four security workers for London-based Global Risk Strategies killed in Baghdad were former Gurkhas, renowned Nepalese soldiers.

"The mortar landed in their camp," said a Foreign Office official on condition of anonymity Tim J. O'Brien, spokesman for Global Risk Strategies, said the attack was on Thursday, when multiple explosions were heard and black smoke was seen rising from the fortified zone on the western bank of the Tigris River.

"There was an incident yesterday. We lost four people and had 12 to 15 who were injured," he said. "We can't confirm what the incident actually was until we go through internal investigations."

O'Brien declined to identify the victims.

In Fallujah, Lt. Gen. John F. Sattler, commanding general of the

1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said the Marines ambushed Thursday by insurgents when searching a home responded with gunfire, killing three rebels hiding inside.

U.S. troops are conducting clearing operations after a massive weekend U.S.-led assault that began Nov. 8.

"We will continue to clear out houses till every one is secure. We've taken more and more of their safe houses. They're running out of places to hide," he said.

Sattler vowed the city 40 miles west of Baghdad will be safe in time for next January's nationwide elections.

Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, was the site of a mass insurgent uprising in apparent support of Fallujah guerrillas following the assault on that rebel stronghold. U.S. and Iraqi forces were sent in to retake parts of the city but insurgents have managed to hit back.

"It's a continued campaign of threats, intimidation and murder by insurgents to spread fear into the public. Their campaign has been directed at what appears to be Iraqi security forces," said Lt. Col. Paul Hastings, a spokesman with Task Force Olympia.

Eleven of the 41 bodies found around Mosul have been identified as members of the Iraqi security forces. The others have not been identified. Six were found Friday and 15 were discovered the day before, U.S. officials said.

Twenty other bodies have been found in Mosul since Nov. 18. At least 10 of the bodies — nine of them shot execution-style — belonged to the Iraqi regular army, based at the Al-Kisik military base about 31 miles west of



AP photos

U.S. soldiers patrol Fallujah, Iraq, on Friday. Insurgents ambushed troops as they entered a home during house-to-house searches in the former rebel bastion of the city, killing two Marines and wounding three others, the U.S. military said.

Mosul, near Tal Afar. Four of the bodies were decapitated.

"I cannot speak to the motive or the level of detail and planning. I just know that since the uprising, ... there's been accelerated and very deliberate attacks on Iraqi security forces," Hastings said.

U.S. and Iraqi troops were hit

by mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire as they were retrieving two of the bodies found Thursday, according to Lt. Col. Eric Kurilla of the Army's 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment.

The U.S. military spotted at least one team of insurgents firing at them. One Iraqi National Guardsman suffered minor injuries, according to Kurilla.

Iraqi security forces in Mosul arrested four people Thursday night accused of providing money and information to insurgents, officials said Friday.

Maj. Gen. Rashid Felehi, commander of a special Interior Ministry force sent from Baghdad, said Iraqi forces said three are accused of financing terror operations and the fourth of providing insurgents with information.

On Thursday, National Security Adviser Qassem Dawoud said a key lieutenant to al-Zarqawi had been captured a few days ago in Mosul, identifying him only as Abu Saeed.

Iraqi officials have said that al-Zarqawi, along with other insurgent leaders, had escaped from Fallujah during the U.S.-led assault earlier in the month. Al-Zarqawi heads an al-Qaida linked terror group believed responsible for numerous car bombings and beheadings of foreign hostages.

Also Friday, Navy Secretary Gordon R. England warned of

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday, at least 1,230 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 961 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians. The Defense Department did not provide an update Thursday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths: Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,092 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 852 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No new deaths reported. The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No new identifications reported.

more violence in Iraq ahead of the country's nationwide elections but said U.S. and Iraqi forces will prevail in securing the vote.

"There will be efforts to disrupt the elections," England said on a visit to Marines at a camp outside Fallujah. "The insurgents don't want the elections to be held and certainly not that they be successful. But we will prevail."

In the southern city of Basra, Iraqi forces arrested four insurgents who said they were planning attacks against coalition bases and police stations, officials said Friday, a day after a joint British-Iraqi operation netted three dozen men in the area.

Iraqi National Guardsmen arrested the four after a brief gunfight at the Al-Yarmouk Hotel. Three of the men came from Fallujah and the fourth from Samarra, according to an Iraqi National Guard official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The four men told Iraqi officials they were planning attacks in southern Basra, which is the headquarters for some 8,500 British troops, in an attempt to relieve the U.S. military pressure on Fallujah.

One of the insurgents was injured during the gunfight and weapons were found in their hotel room, the Iraqi official said.

Near the northern city of Kirkuk, gunmen attacked a police station in Rasheed Thursday night, killing one policeman and injuring three, police said Friday.



Iraqi police display arrested drug smugglers with their drugs in Basra, Iraq, on Friday. The arrests followed an operation Thursday where Iraqi National Guardsmen and police commandos, backed by coalition forces, raided several locations in the town of Zubayr, just west of Basra, said British spokesman Maj. Charlie Mayo.

Boost in vets' benefits caps fruitful year

A lame-duck and bitterly divided Congress found comity enough in mid-November to pass three bills that will raise veterans' benefits, improve pay for Department of Veterans Affairs doctors and strengthen veterans' legal rights.

The bills cap another year of solid pay gains and benefit gains for a military community that lawmakers recognize is under enormous strain.

Besides passing the veterans bills, a worried Congress this year began to reverse some of the post-Cold War drawdown, voting to raise active Army forces by 20,000 and Marines by 3,000. Top pay initiatives this year include a 3.5 percent raise and the last of a series of above-average increases in Basic Allowance for Housing, both to occur in January.

With 182,000 Reserve and Guard members still mobilized, and many serving yearlong combat tours, Congress is anxious to improve benefits and avoid a re-

cruiting and retention crisis. But lawmakers also began to heed Bush administration warnings about cost and to link new benefits to continued service.

Reservists, for example, will see better education benefits but only if they were mobilized for at least 90 days. By May, drilling reservists will be able to buy Tri-care Standard coverage at a reasonable rate. But the offer is open only to those who were mobilized. They are entitled to a year's coverage for every 90 days of activated service.

Military retirees and survivors scored a huge victory when Congress voted to phase out by April 2008 a sharp drop in Survivor Benefit Plan payments that occurs at age 62. All current and future participants stand to gain but the first group to see higher payments, by October, will be 270,000 SBR recipients already 62 or older.

The other big winners from the legislation year are 15,000 retirees with 20 or more years of ser-

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

vice and disability ratings of 100 percent. On Jan. 1, they will see their military retired pay fully restored. Congress voted to accelerate for this group a planned 10-year phase-out of the ban on "concurrent receipt" of both military retirement and disability pay.

Top among the three new veterans bills passed and sent to the White House for signature is the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act (S 2486). This bill will:

- open the active-duty Montgomery GI Bill to drilling reservists if they complete two consecutive years of active-duty service (they will have a year after deactivation to pay the required \$1,200 "buy-in" contribution);

- increase by \$100 a month GI Bill payments for apprenticeship or on-the-job training (effective in October, these benefits will be \$853 a month for the first six months of training, \$653 a month for the second six months and \$52 for subsequent months, plus GI Bill coverage will be expanded to include competency-based apprenticeships as well as time-based ones);

- increase to \$333,700 the maximum home loan allowed

under the VA loan guaranty program (the VA currently guarantees 25 percent of a qualified home loan of up to \$240,000; the higher ceiling is the same used by the Freddie Mac home loan program, and like the Freddie Mac program, the VA amount will be adjusted to keep pace with inflation);

- provide an additional \$250 a month in Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, for two years, to surviving spouses who have children under age 18 (DIC is paid when a servicemember dies on active duty or a veteran dies from a service-connected disability);

- require the VA to exclude life insurance payments from "income" when determining veterans' death pension benefits;

- restart VA guarantees for adjustable-rate mortgages, though 2008;

- extend the VA's hybrid adjustable-rate mortgage loan program, which was set to expire next year (hybrid mortgage loans have a fixed rate for three to five years before they become adjustable);

- increase from 18 months to 24 months the period that an employer must make available company health benefits to mobilized reservists;

- clarify other legal protections under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act and the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act, including that spouses too can terminate leases on apartments or cars,

without financial penalty, when the member deploys.

The VA Health Care Personnel Enhancement Act (S 2484) will increase pay to VA physicians and dentists and allow more-flexible work schedules for its nurses. Doctors will move to a new three-tier system of basic pay, market pay and performance pay. Annual basic pay will run from \$90,000 to \$132,000. Additional "market pay" will be set based on VA needs and the health-care labor market. Performance pay will be tied to specific goals. It could not exceed \$15,000 or 7.5 percent of combined basic pay and market pay.

The same bill would allow the VA to pay nurses who work three 12-hour shifts as though they worked 40 hours; allow nurses to work full time for nine months, one of three months and be paid 75 percent of full-time pay throughout the year; allow the VA to offer \$10,000 to \$25,000 in annual special pay to nurse executives.

Finally, the Veterans Health Programs Improvement Act (HR 3936) would, among other things, cut patient co-payments for VA-provided hospice care, require the VA to establish its first multi-trauma centers to study new treatments for the most severe type of war wounds, and increase assistance to homeless veterans by \$24 million a year, or about one-third.

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 23113, Centerville, VA, 20120-1111, e-mail milupdate@aol.com or visit www.militaryupdate.com

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Military researching how to make eggs better for MREs

BY JAMES HANNAH

The Associated Press

The military is trying to make the egg edible for soldiers.

Researchers at Ohio State University and two other schools are working on a new process designed to produce a tastier, more tender egg that can be used in combat rations.

The use of eggs in Meals, Ready to Eat pouches — or MREs — was discontinued about 10 years ago after soldiers complained they were rubbery, tasted bad and had a grainy tint.

"Eggs are a real challenge to get that quality that is appropriate to heat and serve," said Patrick Dunne, senior adviser in the Combat Rations Directorate at the U.S. Army Soldier Soldier Center near Boston.

Dunne, a biochemist, said the previous process used to preserve the MRE eggs — which came in the form of an egg-and-bacon omelet — involved subjecting the eggs to high temperatures for more than 90 minutes.

"You've got thoroughly cooked eggs to say the least," he said.

Gary Holben, commander of the Army Reserve 705th Transportation Company based in Dayton, Ohio, said the military will have to improve the eggs a lot over the old ham omelet for them to become a hot item among soldiers.

Holben, who likes eggs, said the omelet had a rubbery texture and tasted lousy.

"And the appearance was really bad," he said. "It looked like green eggs and ham."

Researchers at Ohio State's Washington State University and the Illinois Institute of Technology are experimenting with a way to preserve scrambled-egg patties by combining high temperature with high pressure. By applying pressure of 100,000 pounds per square inch, the process only takes about six minutes.

"The pressure kills the bacteria and at the same time doesn't affect the quality," said researcher V.M. "Bala" Balasubramanian, a food scientist at Ohio State. "There seems to be a better acceptance of this product."

The researchers have been working on the project for the past 16 months with a \$250,000 grant. Balasubramanian said the researchers have been experimenting with different egg recipes.

The scrambled-egg patties being tested contain about 20 percent cheese. The eggs have been taste-tested by a consumer panel at Washington State.

"They blessed it," Dunne said.

Next, the eggs will be taste-tested by food technologists at the Massachusetts soldier center, who will rate the eggs for flavor and tenderness. The packaging system still to be finished, and the Food and Drug Administration must approve the eggs before they can be sent to soldiers for field tests.

Dunne hopes the new egg item can be introduced next year, but said it may not get into the hands of troops until a year or two later.



IN THE WORLD

Chinese police hunt man in bloody knife attack

Suspect reportedly kills at least 8 students in dorm

The Associated Press

BEIJING — A man with a knife broke into a high school dormitory and killed as many as nine boys as they slept — the deadliest of a series of knife attacks at Chinese schools in recent months, the government said Friday.

Police were hunting for the man following the attack late Thursday at the No. 2 High School in the city of Ruzhou, government news agencies reported. They said the motive was under investigation.

The man broke into the dormitory at 11:45 p.m. and "chopped eight people to death," the official Xinhua News Agency said. Another state-run outlet, the

China News Service, put the death toll at nine.

Ruzhou police refused to release any other information.

The China News Service said the attacker might have been a former student who had been expelled. It cited a survivor as saying that during the attack, the man with the knife said, "Don't blame me."

It was the fourth knife attack reported at a Chinese school or day care center in as many months. The earlier assaults left one child dead and a total of 42 people injured.

The spate of violence prompted the government of President Hu Jintao to

issue a nationwide order in September for schools to hire guards and tighten security.

The reason for the surge in knife attacks isn't clear. They have taken place throughout China and involve attackers from different backgrounds. In the only other fatal case until this week, an attacker at a Beijing kindergarten was reported to be an employee of the school who had a history of mental illness.

But China's cities and towns swell with grudges and personal feuds amid wrenching economic and social change.

Fatal bombings, mass poisonings and other attacks are reported frequently, usually blamed on people trying to hurt business rivals or seeking revenge in often minor disputes.

Police investigators inspect the site of a murder case Friday in the No. 2 High School in Ruzhou, a city in central China's Henan Province.

Ukraine candidates meet for crisis talks

BY ALEKSANDAR VASOVIC

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — President Leonid Kuchma on Friday met the two candidates at the center of Ukraine's presidential election crisis along with key European envoys, as opposition supporters blockaded government buildings.

The envoys arrived in Kiev in an effort to help solve the political crisis that has engulfed this ex-Soviet republic since Sunday's presidential election, which the opposition and the West criticized as fraudulent.

Kuchma's government certified Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich as the winner, but Western-leaning Viktor Yushchenko claims he was robbed of victory.

"Only talks can resolve the difficult situation that was created after the election," Kuchma said at the start of the negotiations, according to his spokeswoman Olena Gromitska. "It can be resolved through compromise."

The meeting also included European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana, Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus and Boris Gryzlov, speaker of Russia's lower house of parliament. Jan Kubis, the head of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and Volodymyr Lytvyn,

speaker of the Ukrainian parliament, also participated.

Earlier, Kuchma thanked the European envoys for "making every effort so that these negotiations take place not on the street — which can never give a positive result — but around a negotiating table," the Interfax news agency quoted him as saying after meeting Solana and Kwasniewski.

"The situation is more than difficult," Kwasniewski told journalists.

Yushchenko had previously said he would negotiate only with Kuchma, and that the main condition for holding talks was the president's acknowledgment that the election was invalid.

But Kuchma hasn't shown any sign of backing down.

"Any revolution must end in peace," Kuchma said in a televised statement. "The sooner this so-called revolution ends, the better it will be for the Ukrainian people."

Ukraine, a nation of 48 million, has been seized by an ever-escalating political crisis since Sunday's vote. Throngs of Yushchenko supporters have set up a sprawling tent camp along a main avenue and square in Kiev, braving freezing temperatures for five straight nights.

Yanukovich, meanwhile, rallied some

2,000 supporters waving his blue-and-white campaign flags in front of Kiev's train station.

Many had apparently arrived in buses and trains from Ukraine's industrial east, Yanukovich's main support base.

"I don't need power at the cost of spilled blood," Yanukovich said in remarks broadcast on the pro-Yanukovich TRK Ukraine television.

In Cherniviv, about 80 miles north of Kiev, police fired smoke grenades over the heads of a pro-Yushchenko crowd after someone threw an "explosive packet" at a police crowd outside the mayor's office, police spokeswoman Raisa Deikun said. Two policemen were hospitalized, she said. It was not immediately clear what the explosive packet was. Deikun said the protesters had been trying to seize the mayor's office.

In Kiev, protesters standing five deep and linking arms blockaded the Cabinet building where Yanukovich works and refused to let staff enter.

Protesters also blocked surrounding streets with buses and vans decorated with Yushchenko's orange flags, posters and ribbons.

Protesters also surrounded the presidential administration building, which was heavily guarded by police in riot gear.

The Supreme Court has ordered the election's final results not be published pending an appeal filed by Yushchenko's camp. The appeal will be heard Monday, and Yanukovich cannot be inaugurated until results are published.

"I don't need power at the cost of spilled blood."

Viktor Yanukovich
presidential candidate

Two agents found shot

MEXICO CITY — Two federal police agents were discovered wounded but alive on Friday near Cancun, a day after nine other people in the area were discovered slain in what appeared to be drug-related violence.

Quintana Roo state Attorney General Celis Perez Gordillo said the two men from the Federal Agency of Investigation were found shortly before dawn with gunshot wounds in their legs. One also had a broken leg, she said.

U.S. citizen faces treason

FRANKFURT, Germany — German prosecutors said Friday they have charged a U.S. citizen with attempted treason after allegedly trying to sell German military secrets to a country outside NATO.

The German-born woman, a 43-year-old translator who has been living in Canada, was hired by a company to translate German military documents, federal prosecutors said.

The woman, identified by prosecutors only as Michaela T., allegedly decided to sell the documents to the intelligence service of a country outside the NATO alliance after having problems getting paid for the job.

Same time, same place

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — U.S. funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty will have its contract extended to stay in its current location in downtown Prague for up to two more years, officials said Thursday.

The Finance Ministry has drafted an extension of the current contract, which expires by the end of the year, said Marek Zeman, the ministry spokesman. He said the government will formally approve the extension before the end of the year.

India test-fires missile

BHUBANESHWAR, India — India on Friday test-fired a surface-to-air missile on the coast of eastern Orissa state, a government official said.

The weapon, named "Akash," or "Sky," has a range of 15-20 miles and can carry conventional warheads, the official said on condition of anonymity.

India's arsenal also includes medium-range, long-range and supersonic missiles with both nuclear and conventional capabilities.

From The Associated Press

WTO approves sanctions on U.S. exports

BY JONATHAN FOWLER

The Associated Press

GENEVA — The World Trade Organization on Friday approved stiff sanctions on a wide range of American exports that could include cod, heavy machinery and apples intended to punish the United States for failing to respect what it considers protectionist legislation, a trade diplomat said.

"It's been approved," said Amina C. Mohamed, Kenyan ambassador to the WTO and chairwoman of the organization's dispute settlement body.

The European Union and other plaintiffs sought formal WTO authorization to retaliate by imposing new duties against various

U.S. products. Among the potential targets are cod, textiles, glassware, mobile homes and apples.

The WTO dispute settlement body had been scheduled to take the action Wednesday, but U.S. trade diplomats held last-minute talks with counterparts from the European Union and countries including Canada and India.

Although U.S. officials declined to comment, the move was believed to have followed wrangling after Washington rejected a fine-tuning of documents submitted to the WTO.

The 2000 law, named for Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., was written with the steel industry in mind. It was ruled illegal two years ago by the 148-Nation WTO following a complaint spearheaded by the EU.

The contested law allows American companies to receive proceeds from duties levied on foreign rivals for alleged "dumping" — selling goods at below-market prices, making it impossible for American producers to compete.

The WTO backed claims that the amendment breaks trade laws by punishing exporters to the United States twice because they are first fined, and then those fines are passed on to their competitors.

It argued that a WTO arbitration imposed penalties of up to 72 percent of the money collected from foreign exporters and handed to American companies and said the winners in the case should submit lists of potential targets. Under WTO rules, however, formal authorization must come from the dispute settlement body.

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Officials: Iran, EU nuclear dispute nears compromise

BY GEORGE JAHN

The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Iran and European negotiators reached a tentative compromise committing Tehran to freezing a program that can make nuclear-weapons grade uranium, but Tehran still had to approve the agreement, diplomats said Friday.

The compromise means Iran must give up its insistence on exempting 20 centrifuges from a total freeze of all uranium enrichment activities, one of the diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

But instead of putting International Atomic Energy Agency seals on the equipment, the centrifuges would be monitored by IAEA cameras, said the diplomat, who is familiar with Iran's nuclear

ar dossier.

Other diplomats said the details still had to be finalized before the agreement was formally announced, but confirmed the essence of the deal. One senior European Union diplomat said the Europeans and the IAEA were still awaiting for approval from Tehran. Differences between the European and Iranian interpretations of an agreement for Tehran

to freeze to freeze all uranium enrichment activities — which can produce electricity or weapons — raised fears that the agreement would be scuttled.

Iran had demanded that it be allowed to operate 20 centrifuges.

The EU says the Nov. 7 deal mandates a suspension of all activities related to enrichment, including running the centrifuges, which spin gas into fuel-level or

weapons-grade uranium. The freeze was to last for least as long as it took the two sides to discuss a pact to provide Iran with EU technical assistance, economic aid and other concessions.

The proposed solution — video cameras instead of agency seals — would allow the Iranians to save face, an EU delegate said.

The proposed deal also commits Iran to a pledge not to repro-

duce plutonium — which it would be able to do in several years' time, once it completes work on a heavy water reactor in the city of Arak.

The EU deal envisages helping Iran build a light-water reactor — from which extraction of weapons-grade nuclear material is difficult — diplomats said the Europeans hoped the plan would encourage Iran not to complete its heavy water facility.

Actress covers up

JERUSALEM — It looks like Sarah Jessica Parker is too sexy for some Israelis' tastes.

A poster and billboard campaign showing the "Sex and the City" actress in a skimpy, sequined dress was quickly replaced with new ads of her in a dress that covered her arms, back and thigh, reportedly after ultra-Orthodox consumers objected to her outfit.

After an angry phone call from a prominent rabbi, the consumer goods giant Unilever quickly gave Parker a more modest wardrobe, the Haaretz daily reported.

Cooking for a cause

SYDNEY, Australia — Aid workers and celebrity chefs created a stir on the banks of Sydney Harbor on Friday by cooking up what they hoped will be the world's largest risotto — a seven-ton tub of rice and peas — to raise awareness of world hunger.

"There are literally tens of thousands of children dying every week from malnutrition," said Robert Glasser, Chief Executive of aid agency CARE Australia.

Snake charmers irked

BHUBANESHWAR, India — A troop of snake charmers has threatened to release poisonous cobras and pythons in the legislature of the eastern Indian state of Orissa if authorities continue to prevent them from holding roadside shows.

Wildlife officials arrested half a dozen snake charmers this week in Bhubaneswar, the capital of Orissa, and other towns, seizing pythons and cobras they use in their acts.

That infuriated the snake charmers of Orissa.

"We will be left with no option but to release nearly 5,000 poisonous snakes in our possession into the state secretariat building and the state legislature if forest officials continue to harass us in the name of wildlife protection," Kedar Das, a snake charmer, told reporters Thursday.

From The Associated Press



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IN THE STATES

Bush sticks close to home for Thanksgiving

President calls troops from his Texas ranch

BY SCOTT LINDLAU

The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush spent a down-to-earth Thanksgiving Day at his ranch eating leftovers and riding his mountain bike — a world away from Baghdad, his secret destination a year ago.

Bush also called members of the military stationed around the world, most of them deployed to the Middle East.

It was a dual celebration: His twin daughters, Jenna and Barbara, marked their 23rd birth-

days on the family's ranch. Also at the home were Laura Bush and her mother, Jenna Welch, and the president's parents, former President Bush and Barbara Bush.

The family worked on leftovers from Wednesday's luncheon meeting with Spain's King Carlos and Queen Sofia. That meal had a Thanksgiving theme, with free-range turkey and gravy, mashed sweet potatoes, bass caught at the ranch, stuffing, pan-roasted vegetables, pecan and pumpkin pies with ice cream. There was cake Thursday for the twins' birthdays.

Bush also rode his bicycle on the trails at the 1,600-acre ranch,

and chopped cedar, White House spokeswoman Claire Buchanan said.

In the morning, the president called 10 members of the military representing all five branches of the service. "As the men and women of America's armed forces are sacrificing for the liberties we all enjoy, the president wanted to express his gratitude for their service and sacrifice, and to wish them a happy Thanksgiving," Buchanan said.

Last Thanksgiving, Bush slipped away from the ranch to visit troops in Baghdad, leaving his family and most of his usual entourage behind. Mindful of that history, many aides and journalists anxiously awaited word of another secret trip this year.



AP

President Bush phones U.S. troops from his ranch in Crawford, Texas.

New homeland security advertising campaign hits home

BY STEPHEN KIEHL
AND ABIGAIL TUCKER

The Baltimore Sun

A little girl with big brown eyes sits at the kitchen table eating cereal. Milk dribbling down her chin, she asks innocently, "So, Mom, what if something happened? Should I stay where I am and wait for you or go to Grandma's house since it's closest? Is there a place we all meet? What should I do?"

The ad, soon to appear on television, is part of a U.S. Department of Homeland Security campaign to encourage families to develop plans in case of a terrorist attack.

The attention-grabbing campaign, un-

veiled this week, uses sweet young children and haunting music to strike an emotional chord — but perhaps an overly dark one, some fear.

"I'm concerned that it will lead to a bogeyman mentality," said Ned Gaylin, professor emeritus of family studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. "We talk to kids about not talking to strangers. We don't tell them they could rape you. We don't tell them they could put a gun in your mouth."

"You want to give kids the truth. You don't necessarily want to give them the whole truth."

Previous public service campaigns by

the Homeland Security Department featured Secretary Tom Ridge talking about being prepared — hardly gripping television.

Hoping to draw more notice, the department enlisted BBDO Worldwide — known for such touching campaigns as GE's "We Bring Good Things to Life" — to create a new series of ads.

One is called "Family." It shows two young boys and a girl, apparently siblings, watching television in a dark room, the light from the TV flickering on their faces. "How do we keep in touch with each other if the phones don't work?" asks one boy. An announcer urges the viewer to go to www.ready.gov for more information.

The ads will run during donated time on network and cable TV. Exact times have not been determined, but Homeland Security has requested the ads run only during adult programming. Those who made the ads intend for them to make an immediate impact.

"This is not like placing a McDonald's spot that will run five times during prime time," said Kathy Crosby, a senior vice president at the Ad Council, which developed the ads with BBDO for the government. "We have to make every piece of communication compelling. It's gotta count. We hope these ads really spark a dialogue among families."



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Crowds of shoppers wait in line before the 6:00 a.m. opening at a Wal-Mart in East Windsor, Conn., for markdows to kick off the holiday shopping season, nicknamed "Black Friday." AP photos

Wal-Mart, get set ... shop

Chaotic scenes across U.S. mark official beginning of holiday shopping

BY ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

The Associated Press

Retailers opened their doors before the sun rose Friday, the official start of the holiday shopping season, tempting early risers with specials on a variety of items including flat-screen TVs and toys.

Retailers are keeping their fingers crossed that, in an improving though still challenging economy, the crowds will keep coming throughout the next month.

By the time Wal-Mart's store in a Buffalo, N.Y., suburb of Hamburg opened its doors at 6 a.m., 1,000 people had formed a lined that spanned the entire store front, despite temperatures of 31 degrees.

"It's our tradition," said Ruth Pompeio, of Lackawanna, N.Y., who was up at 3 a.m. and in line by 4:30 a.m. with her 11-year-old niece Shelby Strack. "I don't know what I'm here to grab, actually," she said. "Whatever I can."

Many of the early bird specials on hot items were in short supply, however. At another Wal-Mart store in Alpharetta, Ga., just north of Atlanta, a supply of discounted Video Now personal video players sold out in just 12 minutes.

That's why many shoppers mapped out a strategy to get the most coveted bargains.

"The deals are better this early in the morning," said Karen Dawkins from Cayce, S.C., who was at a Toys R Us store in Columbia, S.C. and was almost done with her buying shortly after 6 a.m. "I have my mother at Circuit City and my sister at Target... so we have people stationed at other stores."

She added, "We all got together after Thanksgiving dinner and got the ads and made a list."

Debbie Redmon of Thayer, Mo., set her alarm for 3:20 a.m. but woke up at 3 a.m., ready to take advantage of bargain shopping in Little Rock, Ark.

"I guess the adrenaline was flowing," she said.

She and daughter-in-law Kerri Littleton of Benton, Ark., hit the same places in Little Rock where they year: BestBuy, then Kohl's, then

Staples, then Sports Authority. They had their eyes on BestBuy's Sony PlayStation2 for \$149.99 and an MP3 player marked down from \$129.99 to \$29.99.

"We'll finish up all our shopping today," Redmon said. "But we're usually at some place even after it gets dark. Then I collapse tomorrow."

Crystal Rhoades of Wake Forest, N.C., stood in front of Hudson Belk department store at Triangle Town Center in Raleigh, N.C. with Darlene Hackney of Creedmoor in temperatures hovering around 33 degrees.

Rhoades says it's her second or third time taking advantage of the early opening for the after-Thanksgiving sales, is known as "Black Friday" in the retailing business because the surge of shoppers has been known to push stores into profitability for the year.

"Since I had to go to work today, I figured I'd come in here before I go to work," she added. "So I've got until 7 o'clock to find a deal. After that, I'm out of here. I've got to be at work by 8 o'clock."

In Manchester, Conn., Claude Samson, lined up at 3 a.m. in front of Wal-Mart, three hours before the store opened. He filled two carts full of toys and cooking supplies.

"I think it's a little crazy and there's probably a simpler way of doing this, but at the same time, you are saving so much," he said. "When you are saving \$30 or \$40 on a gift, you're going to do what you have to do."

Things weren't going as well in the cold and rainy Bismarck, N.D., where only about 100 people were in line at Wal-Mart by 4:30 a.m., a half hour before opening, compared with several hundred last year.

"Last year, they broke down a door trying to get in," said Mary Lou Horning, a Wal-Mart employee who has been through a half-dozen Black Fridays. "It's wild. It's an amazing day."

"I think the weather has definitely [had] an impact, but they'll be here," Horning said.

Many of the Wal-Mart shoppers said they tuned to by 24-inch flat-screen Symphonic television, on sale for \$139.92.

Many of the nation's retailers are not panicking — not just yet anyway, according to John Morris, an analyst at Harris Nesbitt.

They're just trying to drive as much traffic earlier in the season, he said. In fact, discounting for the mall-based apparel retailers he follows is 5 percent below what it was a year ago.

Retailers' spirits have improved in recent weeks as falling fuel prices and job gains revived consumer spending momentum that slowed in the summer.

But many shoppers, particularly those with limited disposable income, are saying they will be cautious. Fuel prices remain high, and the job market still is volatile.

The Washington-based National Retail Federation projects that total sales, after restaurant and auto sales are excluded, will increase 4.5 percent for the November-December period. That would be less than the 5.1 percent gain of a year earlier.

Michael Niemira, chief economist at the International Council of Shopping Centers, predicts a "pretty good Christmas" estimating that sales at stores opened at least a year for the November-December period will be up anywhere from 3 percent to 4 percent. That compares to a 4 percent rise a year ago.

Retailers' efforts last year to

get shoppers to buy early paid off.

During the 2003 holiday shopping season, the busiest day was the Friday after Thanksgiving, instead of the last Saturday before Christmas, which was the second busiest day, according to the International Council of Shopping

Centers. That reversed a trend seen over the last ten years, when the busiest day was the Saturday before Christmas, according to Mike Niemira, chief economist at the industry group.

AP bureaus in Buffalo, N.Y., Bismarck, N.D., Raleigh, N.C., Atlanta, Ga., Little Rock, Ark., Boston, and Hartford, Conn., contributed to this report.

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Rocks fall on I-70 in Colorado

The Associated Press

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. — Snowfall delayed repairs Friday to a section of Interstate 70 where a rock slide sent boulders as big as vans crashing onto the road.

Road crews, under the glare of portable spotlights, toiled through the night in hopes of reopening one lane of traffic in each direction. But the highway through scenic Glenwood Canyon in western Colorado remained closed Friday morning.

More than three dozen boulders landed on Interstate 70 early Thursday, some embedded 6 feet deep. State officials ended up closing a 24-mile section of the main east-west artery through Colorado. They rerouted Thanksgiving Day traffic that ordinarily flows between Glenwood Springs and Gypsum along an almost 220-mile detour to the north.

Geologists and engineers were working alongside the crews, trying to figure out what caused the slide.

"This is the worst I've seen in my eight years," said Stacey Stegman, spokeswoman for the state transportation department.

No one was injured in the slide, estimated at 100 feet long and 10



In this photo released by the state Department of Transportation, crews work on a section of Interstate 70 that is closed Thursday near Glenwood Springs, Colo., after a rock slide that left boulders embedded about six feet deep into part of the highway.

feet deep. An overturned truck had forced authorities to temporarily close the interstate earlier Thursday. They were preparing to reopen the road when rocks began rumbling down the canyon walls a mile away.

The slide left holes in the decks of two bridges, damaged guardrails and knocked out two wall panels along westbound lanes of the elevated mountain corridor.

Diann Allen of Redondo Beach, Calif., was just 30 miles from her destination when she learned she wouldn't be traveling any farther on I-70. She'd been headed to Mar-

bile to meet her boyfriend's three college-age sons for the first time. "Everything was going great until I got here," Allen said outside a Gypsum convenience store. "I guess I'll have leftover turkey. It tastes better anyway."

Highway worker David Kuhn had the unenviable job of informing motorists who had not heard about the slide that they were in for a long detour. He also had to accept — and help travelers do the same — the uncertainty of when the road might reopen.

"It could be 10 hours," Kuhn said Thursday. "It could be two days."

Turnpike strike puts truckers in tight spot

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The first strike in the Pennsylvania Turnpike's 64-year history is forcing some truckers to make a tough decision: Should they make a few bucks by pocketing the tolls they would normally pay, or buy extra gas to bypass a \$31-mile picket line in a show of solidarity with fellow union members? Trucks weighing between 40 and 50 tons, the most common on the turnpike, normally would pay \$140 to travel from the east side of the state to the west, while heavier trucks are typically charged \$794 to travel end-to-end.

Truckers and other drivers on the turnpike got free rides on Wednesday after about 2,000 toll collectors, maintenance workers and office employees walked off the job.

Managers began manning toll booths just after midnight on Thursday and were only charging \$2 per car and \$15 per commercial vehicle. Normally, the toll varies by distance, but the flat rate was charged to make things simpler and prevent backups at the retail plazas.

E-ZPass users could pay the regular toll or the flat fee, whichever

was cheaper.

Mark Watkins, a terminal manager for Hess Trucking Co. in Harrisburg, was trying to route his truckers around the turnpike because their contract bars them from passing through the Teamsters union picket lines. "It stinks. It's going to be a pain in the butt," Watkins told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in a story published Thursday.

Normally, the trucking company has as many as 15 trucks ferrying candy on the turnpike, but Watkins was sending drivers through traffic on state roads, up steep hills and on little known routes that will cost the company time and money.

As many as 1,000 truck drivers in Allegheny County also have contracts that bar them from passing through the Teamsters union picket lines, said Joe Rossi, vice president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 249.

Eric Baughman, Pittsburgh terminal manager for Bulkomatic Transport, said the strike will likely be a boon to owner-operators who can pocket the money they'd normally pay in tolls rather than giving it back to their companies.

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Some on Hill decry getting stuck with big bills

By JIM ABRAMS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Ronald Reagan, in his 1988 State of the Union address to Congress, hefted a 1,000-page, 14-pound spending bill and warned lawmakers against sending him more "beheмоths" like this. "And if you do, I will not sign it."

Last Saturday, Congress passed a spending bill of more than 3,000 pages — what Sen. Robert Byrd called a "monstrosity" — to fund most federal programs in 2005. President Bush will sign it into law next month, but only after Congress returns to pass a separate bill to nullify a single sentence, discovered on Page 1,112 of the spending measure, that could have jeopardized taxpayer privacy rights.

Reagan, in his speech, said the budget process had broken down and "needs a drastic overhaul." If anything, the process is even more broken today, with Congress inclined to voting on huge, largely unread,

spending legislation long after the budget year begins on Oct. 1.

"Inefficiency, irresponsibility, lack of leadership. All those words come to mind" in describing how Congress carries out its prime constitutional duty of controlling the public purse strings, said Tom Schatz, president of Citizens Against Government Waste.

Congress is supposed to pass 13 appropriations bills every year covering defense, education, health, foreign aid and every other aspect of federal spending, excluding entitlement programs such as Medicare and Social Security.

But it rarely meets the Oct. 1 deadline, and in six of the past seven years, it has resorted to huge "omnibus" bills that throw all the unfinished bills, as well as some totally unrelated measures, into one package.

This year the \$388 billion omnibus for 2005 combined nine of the 13, just about everything except defense, homeland security and a tiny District of Columbia bill.

The 2004 budget wasn't concluded until last January, with a seven-bill, \$373 billion package, and the 2003 budget in February with an 11-bill, \$397 billion package.

"It is a terrible way to do business," said Republican Ted Stevens of Alaska, who is stepping down as Senate Appropriations Committee chairman.

"I am sick of this process," added his Democratic counterpart, Byrd, a West Virginian. "I do not know if there will ever be a better example of what can happen, what can go wrong with this nefarious process of putting off legislation."

The flaws in the system were exemplified last weekend when Democrats discovered a single sentence in the bill giving Appropriations chairmen and their agents access to income tax returns. Lawmakers from both parties were outraged by this potential invasion of privacy, and House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California demanded that House members return

Dec. 6 to vote on a resolution, already approved by the Senate, making the provision ineffective. Only then will the spending bill be sent to the president.

She said the "assault on taxpayer privacy" was a result of GOP leaders rushing gargantuan bills to a vote before members have a chance to study them.

Another pitfall of omnibus legislation, Schatz said, is that it can't be amended once the bill emerges from House-Senate negotiations. Members can't do anything — other than vote against the entire bill — about pet projects or other measures that get attached or dropped in the waning hours of a congressional session, he said.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a strong critic of the system, listed dozens of member projects buried in the package, from \$515 million for snake control on Guam to \$1 million for the Norwegian-American Foundation, to \$350,000 for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland. "Being a fan of rock 'n' roll myself, I guess that is well-justified," he said.

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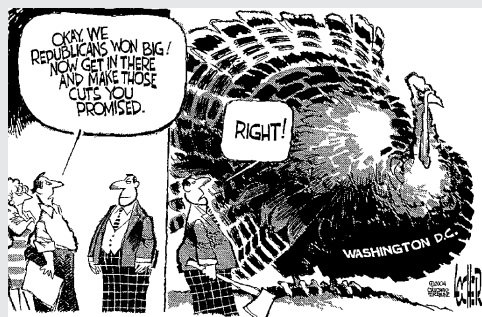
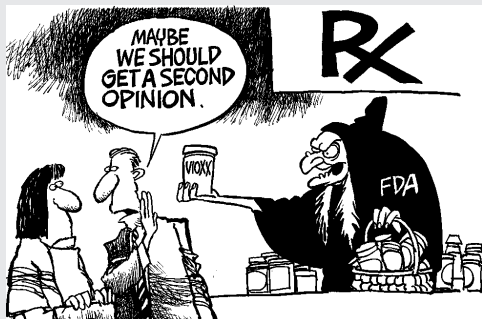


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Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



YOUR MONEY

International stocks back on radar

By THODD MASON

The Philadelphia Inquirer

International stocks are outperforming U.S. stocks after a long, disappointing stretch, so long some experts and investors began questioning the value of owning foreign stocks.

"The sun has been shining on foreign equities for a while now even though people haven't realized it," said Hans van den Berg, manager of the 1838 International Equity mutual fund in King of Prussia, Pa.

Van den Berg's mutual fund — whose largest stakes are in Japanese, British and German stocks — has beaten the Standard & Poor's 500 index handily since 2002, earning an average annual return of 7.1 percent through October versus 1.2 percent for the S&P, according to Morningstar Inc.

The Morgan Stanley Europe Australasia and Far East index — a broad measure of international stocks — was up 10.7 percent this year through Nov. 12, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 6.5 percent in the same period. The Morgan Stanley index tracks stocks in 21 developed countries outside of North America.

Even so, investors have been slow to pick up on improving fortunes abroad. Of \$208 billion flowing into stock mutual funds for this year, \$36 billion or 17.3 percent, went to funds investing in foreign stocks, according to Lipper Inc.

Investors are missing a chance

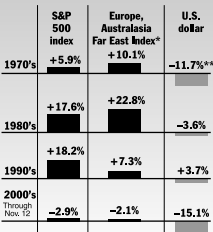
Comparing returns

Total returns of major stock indexes and the U.S. dollar's value against other major currencies as measured by the Federal Reserve's major currencies index:

*Morgan Stanley Capital International index measures stock market performance plus reinvested dividends in 19 countries in Europe and the Far East, plus Australia and New Zealand

*Data series began in Jan. 1973

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Source: Lipper; U.S. Federal Reserve Board
Graphic: The Philadelphia Inquirer

to reduce risk in their portfolios, said Ted Smith, a senior vice president in the wealth management group at Delaware Investments, an arm of Lincoln National Corp., in Philadelphia.

"Investors should diversify precisely because they don't know whether it's U.S. or foreign stocks will outperform," he said.

There was no question about which group did better in the late, great bull market of the late 1990s. The average annual total return of the S&P 500 towered over that of Morgan Stanley Inc.

What is more, foreign stocks fell harder than domestic stocks in the initial months of the bear market in 2000.

said Kevin Johnson, a principal at Aronson, Johnson Ortiz LP, a Philadelphia institutional money manager. "They are looking at what the company does for a living, rather than where it does it," he said.

Foreign-fund managers do not dispute growing economic globalization. But they say they now have an ally that will keep them outperforming the U.S. dollar.

The dollar has fallen 26 percent since 2001, according to a Federal Reserve Board index tracking it against a basket of major world currencies.

That is good for American investors: Capital gains — that is profits from share price increases — and dividends earned in foreign currencies get an extra boost when the dollar is weakening because euros and yen are worth more when they are converted back into dollars.

The dollar is "one of the strongest reasons to have assets outside of the U.S.," said Richard Foulkes, a London-based manager of the Vanguard International Growth mutual fund.

A weak dollar makes U.S. exports more competitive in world markets.

Meanwhile, U.S. companies with substantial operations abroad also look currency gains when they convert profits to dollars — just as investors do.

"It is not a crime to avoid international funds," Wolper said.

"Having said that, foreign markets don't move in lock step" with the United States.

Survey finds confidence in economy varies across globe

The Associated Press

LONDON — A global survey of consumer confidence released Wednesday shows that European consumers are generally pessimistic about the economic outlook for the next 12 months, people in the Asia-Pacific are optimistic, and Americans lie somewhere in between.

The AC Nielsen report also found that, across the globe, concerns about the economy, job security and health generally outweighed worries about terrorism or war.

Forty percent of consumers in the Asia-Pacific think their economies improved over the past six months and 53 percent expect them to improve over the next year. Conversely, 48 percent of Americans and 40 percent of Europeans believed their economies had deteriorated over the past six months and 49 percent of Americans expected an improvement in the next 12 months, compared to just 31 percent of Europeans.

"I would expect continued caution in Europe, where there are structural and economic issues, as well as concern about growth rates," said Frank Martell, president of AC Nielsen in Europe.

"If you look at the United States, it's clearly more encouraging," Martell added. "There's a lot of government stimulus, monetary and fiscal, and it looks much brighter."

From wire reports

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

| INDEXES | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|--------|
| | High | Low | Net Chg | % YTD |
| Dow Jones Industrial | 10,531.51 | 10,529.57 | +1.94 | +12.1 |
| Dow Jones Transportation | 3,613.53 | 3,613.46 | +0.07 | +21.39 |
| Dow Jones Technology | 4,232.46 | 4,232.46 | +0.00 | +24.57 |
| NASDAQ Composite | 7,642.22 | 7,642.22 | +0.00 | +15.41 |
| S&P 500 | 1,176.53 | 1,176.53 | +0.00 | +10.78 |
| Nasdaq Composite | 1,258.82 | 1,258.82 | +0.00 | +12.54 |
| S&P 500 | 1,186.86 | 1,186.86 | +0.00 | +11.25 |
| S&P 500 | 638.21 | 638.21 | +0.00 | +11.19 |
| S&P 500 | 67.28 | 67.28 | +0.00 | +11.19 |
| S&P 500 | 11,638.42 | 11,638.42 | +0.00 | +11.19 |

| MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|---------|-------|---------|
| Name | Vol | Net Chg | Vol | Net Chg |
| Merrell | 398,115 | +1.37 | +0.00 | +0.00 |
| Merrell | 349,921 | +2.79 | +1.08 | +0.00 |
| Merrell | 269,830 | +4.41 | +0.00 | +0.00 |
| Merrell | 1,982.29 | +1.38 | +0.00 | +0.00 |
| Merrell | 1,717.18 | +1.89 | +0.00 | +0.00 |
| Merrell | 1,717.18 | +1.89 | +0.00 | +0.00 |
| Merrell | 1,717.18 | +1.89 | +0.00 | +0.00 |
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| Merrell | 1,717.18 | +1.89 | +0.00 | +0.00 |
| Merrell | 1,717.18 | +1.89 | +0.00 | +0.00 |

| KEY DEFENSE STOCKS | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|---------|-------|---------|
| Name | Vol | Net Chg | Vol | Net Chg |
| Alliant Techsystems | 48 | +1.63 | +0.14 | +0.14 |
| Airbus | 20 | +42.53 | +0.32 | +0.32 |
| Bombardier | 80 | +54.21 | +0.14 | +0.14 |
| Boeing | 24 | +54.49 | +0.14 | +0.14 |
| General Dynamics | 44 | +54.49 | +0.14 | +0.14 |
| Lockheed Martin | 21 | +54.49 | +0.14 | +0.14 |
| Northrop Grumman | 48 | +1.63 | +0.14 | +0.14 |
| Raytheon | 48 | +1.63 | +0.14 | +0.14 |
| Boeing | 48 | +1.63 | +0.14 | +0.14 |
| Boeing | 48 | +1.63 | +0.14 | +0.14 |
| Boeing | 48 | +1.63 | +0.14 | +0.14 |

| KEY MUTUAL FUNDS | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| Name | Vol | Net Chg | Vol | Net Chg |
| Fidelity Investor - Growth | 33.98 | +0.89 | +1.17 | +1.17 |
| Fidelity Investor - Growth | 33.98 | +0.89 | +1.17 | +1.17 |
| Fidelity Investor - Growth | 33.98 | +0.89 | +1.17 | +1.17 |
| Fidelity Investor - Growth | 33.98 | +0.89 | +1.17 | +1.17 |
| Fidelity Investor - Growth | 33.98 | +0.89 | +1.17 | +1.17 |

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Japanese yen (Nov. 30) | 101.00 |
| South Korean won (Nov. 25) | 1,038.00 |
| Euro (Nov. 25) | 1.348 |
| British pound (Nov. 25) | 0.613 |
| Commercial rates | |
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3770 |
| British pound | 0.5818 |
| Canada (Dollar) | 1.1798 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 1.6647 |
| Egypt (Pound) | 7.215 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 1.1778 |
| Hungary (Forint) | 187.13 |
| Israel (Shekel) | 4.783 |
| Japan (Yen) | 101.00 |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.2946 |
| Lebanon (Pound) | 1.6021 |
| Philippines (Peso) | 56.30 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 1.750 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 0.6405 |
| South Korea (Won) | 1,038.00 |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 1.601 |
| Thailand (Baht) | 1.2871 |

| Military exchange rates | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Japanese yen (Nov. 30) | 101.00 |
| South Korean won (Nov. 25) | 1,038.00 |
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| Switzerland (Franc) | 1.601 |
| Thailand (Baht) | 1.2871 |

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| New York Merc exchange | |
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INTEREST RATES

| Prime rate | |
|---|------|
| Discount rate | 5.00 |
| Federal Reserve market rate | 5.00 |
| 3-month bill | 2.18 |
| 30-year bond | 5.48 |
| Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America | |

Cents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Paying late blemishes score

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — One late payment on your credit card can pack a pretty hard punch. Not only with fees and rate hikes on the card in question, but also with penalties on your other credit cards.

Almost half of all credit cards have so-called universal default penalties, which allow the credit-card company to increase your interest rate if it discovers a late payment on your credit report for any credit card account or loan or other debt involving any other company. It doesn't matter if you've never made a late payment on that particular company.

This year, 44 percent of credit cards have universal default penalties, reports Consumer Action, a San Francisco-based research group. And the number is increasing — only 39 percent of cards had them in 2003.

Penalty rates can easily top 29.99 percent compared with the average annual rate of 14 to 16 percent.

Scoring ranges from 300 to 850. The higher your score, the better. A lower credit score may make you ineligible for lenders' best interest rates, affecting any major purchases you make until your score improves.

People with no late or missed payments in the last year had an average credit score of 759, reports Experian. Those consumers who had one or more delinquent payments in the past year had an average score of 598.

No more paddling

TN MEMPHIS — Beginning next fall, paddling will no longer be allowed in Memphis public schools.

In a tense meeting Monday night, the school board voted 5-4 to abolish corporal punishment, replacing it with a package of alternative disciplinary measures.

"It's just gratifying to know that we have come to a place where we're going to respect our children and treat them with decency," said a grinning Lora Jobe, the board member who waged a seven-year fight to end corporal punishment.

The decision prompted mixed reactions from parents and teachers who packed the auditorium. One parent, Tonya Harris, predicted dire consequences. "The kids are waiting up on this news, and there's going to be fights, starting (today)," she said.

Disgruntled patient

CA VENTURA — A woman upset about problems with her medical appointments flung an ax inside the reception area of a doctor's office, injuring a patient and smashing a window, police said.

Sybil Busch, 54, was booked into jail on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and felony vandalism.

Police were called to Urgent Care in Ventura after the woman entered the building armed with a foot-long ax and complained about appointment problems, police Lt. David Wilson said. She shattered a large window with the ax after yelling at the receptionist and trying to climb over the counter, he said.

Michael Fiddes, 62, of Ventura, pulled the woman down from the counter and was cut on the hand by the ax, Wilson said.

Expensive wine bottle

NY NEW YORK — Raise a glass — 1,200 of them to be exact — to New Jersey, new home to the world's largest bottle of wine.

A Tenafly, N.J., business paid \$55,812 for a 4 1/2-foot tall bottle of cabernet sold Saturday at Sotheby's, said auction house spokeswoman Kristin Geller. Wine Ventures, a wine and chocolate shop, plans to put the bottle on display at its Bergen County business.

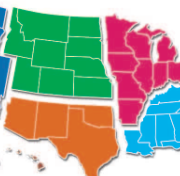
The 340-pound bottle was the work of master glass blowers in the Czech Republic, and holds the equivalent of 173 standard bottles of Beringer Vineyards 2001 Private Reserve Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. That translates to 1,200 glasses of wine.

The bottle, dubbed Maximus, was certified as the world's largest by the Guinness World Records. The Morton's steakhouse chain, to celebrate its 25th anniversary, partnered with Beringer to create the record-setting bottle.

Doll rescued

IN KIRKLIN — Rescuers responding to a report of an infant left alone in a vehicle arrived to find that she wasn't breathing.

No big deal, since the rescuer turned out to be nothing more than



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

a doll in a car seat.

A woman had phoned the Clinton County Sheriff's Department shortly before 4 p.m. Sunday and said a baby had been left in a locked car in Kirklin, a town of 800 about 40 miles north of Indianapolis. The woman told the dispatcher she thought the child might not be breathing.

Sheriff's deputies, firefighters and emergency medical technicians raced to the scene and used a special device to unlock the car's door, said Sheriff's Department Lt. Joe Mink.

When officers opened the car door they discovered the supposed infant was a doll, Mink said. No further action was taken.

\$7 million fraud scheme

TX HOUSTON — A lawsuit is accusing a bank and 24 other businesses and individuals of helping a Clear Lake man in a \$7 million fraud scheme.

Larry Michael Nixon, 55, has been accused of faking his own death and big spending disappeared after his speedboat, "Living Extra Fast," smashed into a barge in August 2003 in the Houston Ship Channel. He was found alive in January in a house in the North Texas town of Weatherford.

The lawsuit was filed Friday by Old National Bank of Evansville, Ind., and M. Gene Marlin of Greenwood, Ind., a former partner of

Nixon.

It accuses Moody National Bank and Michael Hazelwood, vice president and loan officer at its Clear Lake branch, of conspiring with Nixon to obtain loans to buy nonexistent canoes.

Nurse charged

RI PROVIDENCE — The attorney general's office filed felony criminal-negligence charges against a nurse, saying she ignored the pleas of an 85-year-old resident of a nursing home who died after complaining of chest pains and asking for her nitroglycerin.

The patient, Eva Thomas, said she thought she was having a heart attack, according to court records. But an investigation found that the nurse, Deborah M. Colby, 33, told co-workers that Thomas was faking.

Reached at home, Colby said she didn't know about the criminal complaint filed against her. She said she was trying, unsuccessfully, to reach her lawyer.

"I'm shaking like a leaf," she said.

Seal pup captured

CA OAKLAND — The Oakland Fire Department captured a wayward elephant seal pup hanging out in a drainage culvert two miles from San Francisco Bay and turned it over to wildlife experts.

Called "Emmy," after one of the rescuing officers at the scene, the healthy 11-month-old seal surfaced about midday Tuesday to the amazement of passersby.

Cars double-parked for about a block and a half, clogging traffic, while a crowd gathered to see the 181-pound gray marine mammal, which was going the wrong way in one of the covered creeks that runs through Oakland.

Mark Hoffmann, the fire chief who coordinated the capture, said it looked as though the seal was in danger from trash and humans.

Within an hour, the Fire Department's heavy-rescue unit secured the seal in a sling and pulled it out with a crane. It was to be released into the bay.

Officers asked for DNA

KS WICHITA — Investigators seeking Wichita's most notorious serial killer are asking former Wichita police officers to provide DNA samples. Lt. Ken Landwehr said the samples will exonerate officers who worked during the time of the so-called BTM murders. The initials stand for "Bind, Torture, Kill," the self-coined nickname of a serial killer connected with eight unsolved homicides between 1974 and 1986.

Rare trees protected

HI HILO — The state is setting aside 1,200 acres on the Big Island to grow rare koa trees suitable for building traditional Polynesian voyaging canoes. The Polynesian Voyaging Society estimated the first trees may be ready to harvest for canoe construction in 20 years. Koa logs large enough to fashion into canoes are about 35 to 45 feet long.



Risky job Russell Tucker, 47, starts to shimmy up the 70-foot-high flag pole in front of a McDonald's restaurant in Las Cruces, N.M., with nothing but a set of ropes.



Creative sand art Carl Jara, a sand sculptor, works on part of the "SANDSTRUCK" exhibition at The Children's Museum of Cleveland in University Circle, Cleveland.



Extreme fun Chuck Speck catches some air on a homemade jump at the edge of the Hart Prairie ski run at the Arizona Snowbowl, near Flagstaff, Ariz.



Pooch auditions Robbie Hiltz of Andover, Minn., hugs Jake, 18 months, at a casting call for St. Bernard dogs to play the role of Santabar's dog in the Holiday parade.



Safety practice Johanna Walkiet, 9, from Providence, R.I., skates around safety cones during a visit to the Fleet Skating Center in downtown Providence.



Peaceful serenity A rainbow stretches along Jones Valley during a short break in the rainshowers in Huntsville, Ala.

Granny saves the day

WA LYNNWOOD — When this granny saw a handcuffed man trying to flee from a department store, she didn't just step out of the way of the charging scowling.

"I get pushed and shoved a little sometimes at the mall, but nothing like this," said 60-year-old Janice Lewis.

Lewis, who has 10 grandchildren, grabbed the man's jacket and held on until he was tackled by Officer Anne Codiga. She broke a finger and bruised her hand in the scuffle.

The chase began across the street from Alderwood Mall on Monday when workers at Verity Credit Union reported a man was trying to use an account that wasn't his. Police had arrested and handcuffed the man, and were leading him outside when he bolted.

As he ran, with two officers in pursuit, his jeans slid to his ankles and he tripped over them, falling in the middle of the road.

He flipped off his shoes, wriggled out of his pants, got to his feet and ran.

Wearing boxer shorts, one sock, a jacket and a shirt, he ran into the mall parking garage. Codiga followed.

Lewis had seen the man running from police near the credit union, but thought officers had caught him. So she was shocked to see him suddenly running toward her from the parking garage.

The man was booked for theft and assault.

Judges being evaluated

MA BOSTON — Judicial officials are completing their first comprehensive evaluation of the state's 360 judges. The evaluations are part of a drive to improve management and efficiency in the state court system, which a panel of business and academic leaders described as "mired in confusion" two years ago. The results of the surveys won't be made public. Officials say only a small percentage of judges received poor marks.

Dog is mom to kittens

MI EDWARDSBURG — A Shih Tzu who, her owners say, longed for years to give birth is finally getting a chance to nurse some little ones, even if they're the wrong species.

Owners Jean and Bill Schirf said the dog, named Geisha Girl, used to take a toy dog, wrap herself around it in her basket and mother it for a week or two.

Now she's doing the same thing with two stray kittens that Jean Schirf found two weeks ago in the woods behind her Cass County home.

"She wraps herself around them all night long," Schirf said.

Not only did Geisha Girl start watching over and cleaning the kittens, which have been named Dilly and Dally, she started lactating within about a week — enough to provide them with some of the milk they need. Schirf helps out by bottle-feeding the cats 2 percent milk.

New bridge on I-10

FL PIENSACOLA — A new Interstate 10 bridge connecting Escambia and Santa Rosa counties will replace the one damaged by Hurricane Ivan. The money will come from a provision in the

\$388 billion spending bill approved by Congress over the weekend. State engineers have estimated that building the new bridge will cost \$325 million.

Pierce not forgotten

NH CONCORD — Tuesday is the 200th birthday of the only U.S. president from New Hampshire, and the state's historical society is throwing a party, complete with cake. Franklin Pierce was the 14th president from 1853 to 1857, as the nation headed toward the Civil War. An exhibit will explore Pierce's life through more than 100 objects, paintings, photographs and documents.

Legislator wants recount

TX AUSTIN — Rep. Talmadge Hefflin, a Republican who lost his Houston race by 32 votes, requested a formal recount with the Texas Secretary of State's office. Democrat Hubert Vo, a Houston businessman and former Vietnamese refugee, successfully challenged the longtime legislator. Hefflin is regarded as one of the most powerful members of the Texas House.

Recount confirms win

MN ST. PAUL — The state canvassing board confirmed the victory of Judy Soderstrom, a Republican incumbent in a close House race that was key to determining control of the chamber. Soderstrom won a second term by 76 votes over Democratic challenger Tim Faust, according to an automatic recount. Her win preserves the Republicans' 68-66 majority in the House.

Schools to pool resources

CO DENVER — Three Colorado universities signed an agreement to form a joint school of public health that could start in 2007.

Colorado State University, the University of Colorado and the University of Northern Colorado plan to pool resources and expertise to offer bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees. It would be the first school of public health in the Mountain West.

Predictions on volcano

WA VANCOUVER — If lava continues to pile up inside the crater of Mount St. Helens at the current rate, the volcano could rebuild its summit in about 10 years. It's more likely the volcano will erupt sporadically during the next 20 to 50 years and gradually regain its former height, said Willie Scott, a volcanologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Cascades Volcano Observatory. The 1980 eruption blasted off 1,313 feet, leaving the mountain at 8,364 feet.

Governor very popular

CT HARTFORD — Gov. M. Jodi Reil's popularity is at a new high with Connecticut voters, according to the latest Quinnipiac University poll. The poll gives Reil an 80 percent approval rating, nearly the highest of any governor ever surveyed by the university. The telephone poll of 1,774 registered voters was conducted between Nov. 15-21.

Stories and photos from wire services

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2004

| (AFN-FAMILY) | (AFN-MOVIE) | (AFN-EUROPE) | (AFN-KOREA) | (AFN-NEWS) | (AFN-SPORTS) | (SPECTRUM) | (AFN-PACIFIC) |
|--|---|---|------------------|---------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| 9:00 Jackie Chan Adventures | [51] Movie • • • "Field of Dreams" (1989) Kevin Costner, Amy Madigan, Bert Lancaster. | [Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius] Drew & Joan Lizze McGuire | Access Hollywood | Nightline | College Football [LSU] at Arkansas. (Live) | Clean House | Access Hollywood |
| 9:30 Kim Possible (E) | | | | Headline News | Headline News Report | BEG With Bobby Flay | Headline News |
| 10:00 Teen Titans | | | | Headline News | Harvard With Chris Matthews | 540-day | ESPNes |
| 10:30 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turt. | | | | Headline News | | Fashion Police | According to Jim |
| 11:00 Dragon Ball GT | | | | Headline News | | It's Good to Be | Half & Half |
| 11:30 X-Men: Evolution | | | | Headline News | | 101 Most Unforgettable | CSI: Miami 'Slow Burn' |
| 12:00 Teen Kids News | | | | Headline News | | | |
| 12:30 Cyberspace 'Cool It' (E) | | | | Headline News | | | |
| 13:00 Endurance: Aqueduct (E) | | | | Headline News | | | |
| 13:30 Scooby's Safari 'Fathers' (E) | | | | Headline News | | | |
| 14:00 Animal Kingdom | | | | Headline News | | | |
| 14:30 | | | | Headline News | | | |
| 15:00 Most Extreme: Bites | | | | Headline News | | | |
| 15:30 | | | | Headline News | | | |
| 16:00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys | | | | Headline News | | | |
| 16:30 | | | | Headline News | | | |
| 17:00 Aashli! Real Monsters | | | | Headline News | | | |
| 17:30 Rocket Power | | | | Headline News | | | |
| 18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants | | | | Headline News | | | |
| 18:30 Rugrats First Hand | | | | Headline News | | | |
| 19:00 | | | | Headline News | | | |
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| 00:00 Futurama "The Deep South" | | | | Headline News | | | |
| 00:30 Futurama | | | | Headline News | | | |
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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2004

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| 00:00 Futurama "The Deep South" | [11:00] Movie • • • "Remember the Titans" (2000) Denzel Washington, Cuba Gooding Jr. | Access Hollywood | Headline News | McLaughlin Group (N) | SportsCenter | Mad TV | College Football Teams TBA. |
| 00:30 Futurama | | Access Hollywood | Headline News | The Capital Gang | College Gameday | Trading Spaces Bedroom and Living Room | Headline News |
| 1:00 | | | Headline News | Washington Week in Review | College Football Teams TBA. (Left in Progress) (Live) | Crossing Jordan "O, Brother Where Art Thou?" | Air Force TV News |
| 1:30 | | | Headline News | People in the News | CNN Saturday Night | 1-800-Missing "This is Your Life" | College Football Teams TBA. |
| 2:00 | | | Headline News | Friends | Seinfeld "The Fugue" | Breathingspace Yoda | Headline News |
| 2:30 | | | Headline News | Friends | Seinfeld "The Fugue" | Caribbean Workout | Headline News |
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Willis sues film studio for injuries

Bruce Willis filed a negligence lawsuit against Revolution Studios for pyrotechnic injuries allegedly suffered during filming of the action film "Tears of the Sun."

The Superior Court lawsuit claims the actor suffered substantial mental and physical injuries during the October 2002 movie set accident in Los Angeles where he was struck in the forehead by a "projectile" after the movie's special effects personnel detonated pyrotechnic devices.

The explosions, known as squibs, were intended to "simulate the appearance of bullets striking the ground," according to the lawsuit claiming Willis has endured "extreme mental, physical and emotional pain and suffering."

There were no details on the injuries.

Revolution Studios spokesman Sean Dudas said, "We are not able to comment on pending litigation."

The complaint doesn't seek specific monetary damages, but it noted Willis "was required to and did employ physicians and other medical personnel" and will incur future medical expenses.

The lawsuit said defendants Revolution Studios and special effects foreman Joe Pancake "had a duty to Willis to ensure that the squibs were inspected, set up, placed and detonated in a safe manner, and to employ technicians who were trained and competent in their use."

Willis' screen credits also include the "Die Hard" films, "The Sixth Sense" and "The Whole Nine Yards."

Manson hits the classroom

Marilyn Manson: shock rocker. Self-proclaimed "Antichrist Superstar." Philosophy professor? With an MTV film crew in tow, Manson surprised students in a Temple University Art and Society class Monday with an hourlong guest lecture.

He opened the class with a question: Could he share a bottle of red absinthe with the students? The liqueur stayed on the desk as Manson — wearing an all-black suit with chrome-tipped platform shoes, dark lipstick and sunglasses — responded to questions about art, politics and religion.

"I'm not someone who doesn't respect religion, but I don't care for the way religion is used to manipulate people," the 35-year-old singer said. "We create our own gods. We create our own devils."

MTV's college network, mtvU, filmed Manson's classroom appearance for a segment of the "Stand In" series scheduled to air Dec. 6.

Fishburne, Hawke star in remake

A grim, crime-ridden city co-stars with Laurence Fishburne and Ethan Hawke in a thriller movie set for release in January.

"Assault on Precinct 13" is a remake of the 1976 cult classic directed by John Carpenter, which was set in Los Angeles. The 2005 version, set in Detroit, is directed by Jean-François Richet ("All About Love"), and also features Drea de Matteo, Maria Bello, Gabriel Byrne and Brian Dennehy.

The movie tells the story of a stormy New Year's Eve at a police precinct that is set to be shut down in a few days. Crime lord Marion Bishop, played by Fishburne, sits in Precinct 13 for the night. When a gang attempts to break in to free him, the prisoners and a skeletal crew of police officers realize they must band together if they want to make it out alive.

"Assault on Precinct 13" was shot almost entirely in Toronto.

A skyline shot is the only glimpse of the real Motor City, the Detroit

Free Press said Tuesday.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Front to back: Mark McClelland, Gary Lightbody, Nathan Connolly, Tom Simpson and Johnny Quinn of Snow Patrol sit in an aisle at Tower Records in West Hollywood, Calif., on Oct. 4. Lightbody's relationships often have been the band's muse.

Snow Patrol: Turning heartache into hits

BY RANDY LEWIS
Los Angeles Times

YOU can call Snow Patrol a lot of things — this year's Coldplay, the hottest rock act out of Belfast, Northern Ireland since Van Morrison four decades ago — but "anti-women" isn't one of them.

"The woman never comes out worse in my songs," says the quartet's lead singer and songwriter, Gary Lightbody. Any problem in a relationship, he confesses apologetically, "is always my fault."

But as Lightbody and his bandmates have discovered lately, a problem in one aspect of life can be good in another — in this case, Lightbody's misfortunes in love have helped Snow Patrol's fortunes in music.

The group's songs, he explains, "are not about one girl, but generally just about me being terrible in relationships," he says. "Nobody will ever accuse us of being misogynist." Snow Patrol's third album, "Final Straw," which chronicles relationships in various states of despair, has sold about 800,000 copies in the United Kingdom, according to the band's manager. It also has cracked the 100,000 sales mark in the United States since its release here in March — a feat that's proven rare for U.K. bands no matter how popular they are at home.

But Lightbody's laconic, yet sincere, Irish tenor and heart-on-sleeve lyrical emotionalism, combined with wistful harmonies and a touch of U2-ish pop grandeur and rock drive, has helped Snow Patrol become an exception to the rule.

With its anthem-like single "Run," ever-present on alt-rock and pop radio stations over much of the summer, the Glasgow, Scotland-based group is receiving "arrival of the year" treatment from U.S. audiences. Few fans are aware of the group's two previous albums as Snow Patrol — "Songs for Polar Bears" in 1998 and 2001's "When It's All

Over We Still Have to Clear Up."

"We see 'Final Straw' as a continuation of what we did on the first two albums, but most people probably think it's our first record," says Lightbody, as he's flanked at a West Hollywood restaurant by bassist Mark McClelland, guitarist Nathan Connolly, drummer Johnny Quinn and touring keyboardist Tom Simpson.

"The fact that it works well on its own means that it does stand alone as a work," he says.

Lightbody and McClelland hail from Belfast, but they met while in school north of Glasgow at the University of Dundee. They started Snow Patrol with Quinn in 1994 as a hobby, while Lightbody pursued studies in English and philosophy — "two useless subjects," he quips — and McClelland focused on economics.

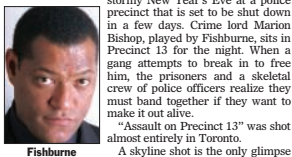
They also were passionate about music and took their band to the burgeoning music scene in Glasgow, which has also yielded acts like Franz Ferdinand and Keane.

Lightbody, like his bandmates, admires Coldplay and thinks "it's great being compared" to such a successful and respected group. "But 'Run' is the only song on the album that bears any relation to Coldplay. We tend to play dirtier rock music."

Lightbody's been earning plaudits for a forward leap in his songwriting on "Final Straw" in songs that frequently come across as captivating emotional musings. Producer Garret Lee, who had previously worked with such dance acts as Basement Jaxx and TLC, also helped push Snow Patrol in new musical and sonic directions this time around.

"We took everything we discovered on those first two records and more and commingled that with the knowledge and efforts of Garret Lee to create obviously a far superior record the third time around," Lightbody says.

"Hopefully we'll do that again next time," he says. "You have to keep making better and better records, or you have to ask yourself why are you doing it."



Fishburne

Horoscope

Jupiter and Neptune emphasize what we like — and possibly too much of a good thing. If you already know you've got a propensity toward indulgence when it comes to certain substances or people, stay away. Whether it's sugar or an ex-love who is bad for you, it's better to not even go there, especially with so much goodness to be enjoyed.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (November 27). This year provides you with the focus it takes to spend your energy where it's most appreciated. You're aligned with your values, and therefore, new horizons open. Finances improve next month, when you make the most of a circumstantial shift. Caution: Don't overextend in April. Spring's end features a move, perhaps to be closer to a loved one.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your confidence is your speed pass. Flash your moxie, and you get let behind the velvet ropes of life. Romantic matters must be adjusted to fit the lifestyle of all involved. You'll be surrounded by intellectual talk.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A relationship has suffered for lack of attention. It's worth it to dig down deep to find your inner romantic heart. Grand (sappy) gestures are required. Pour your heart into it, and love blossoms.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The basic human need to help others is highlighted. Your contributions make your soul feel shiny and new. Neighbors and friends involve you in projects. They'll share the bounty of the work — either way, you win.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you give up a struggle, it becomes apparent what's worth fighting for and what is not. You can then choose to get back in the same fight, energy renewed, or pick up a new crusade altogether.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 23). You've become desensitized. Amping up the stakes is the only way to keep

you from complete boredom. Go after love ferociously! Voraciously! As if passion were more important than bread, water and air.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've been content to hold up the background scenery for too long now. Dare to purchase an item that's extremely of the time. A touch of trendiness makes you feel more outgoing, curious and sassy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've worked on yourself diligently. You deserve to love someone who is just as evolved. New personality traits attract you — a sly smile, a sure-sounding voice, someone who stands out from the crowd.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are good surprises and bad surprises. Right now, you'd prefer no surprises. But if your karma is clean, you have nothing to fear from the unexpected. Potential loves work harder to please you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). What's good for the goose isn't necessarily good for the gander now. Realize that your needs are unique and specific to only you. The better you can articulate that, the more likely you are to smile often now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Talking risks is what you're good at now, but when you're putting it on the line, how much is too much? You want to know truthfully when you're doing the right thing and when you're blowing it. Ask a Virgo or Leo.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Be aware: Your vibe is strong now. In spite of your efforts to be friendly and inclusive, you're a bit intimidating. This could cause a date to make one too many mistakes, leaving you to cry, "Check, please!"

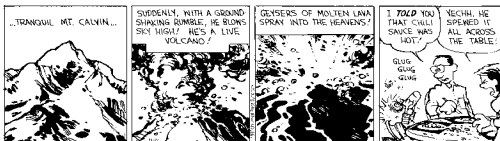
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You successfully inform family and friends how they can make your life easier. Now, if you could only do the same in regards to your love life. Research how you can add few more skills to your romantic arsenal.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



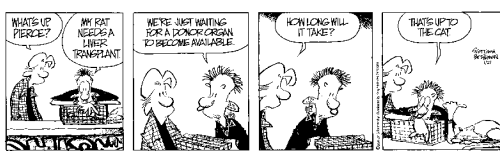
Calvin and Hobbes



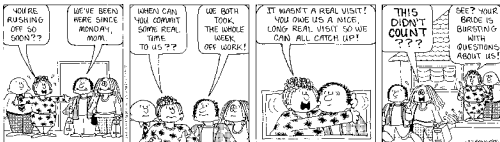
Jump Start



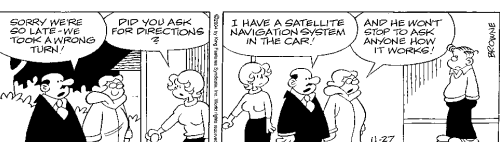
Zits



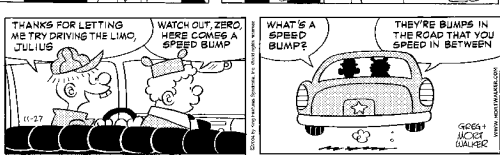
Cathy



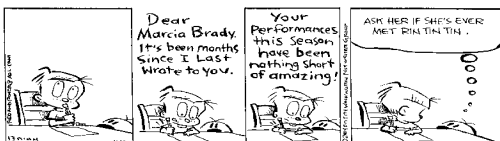
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



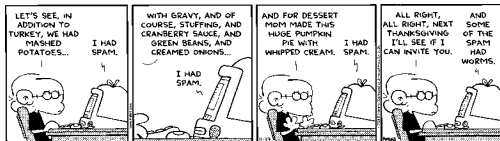
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



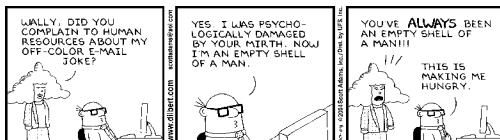
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



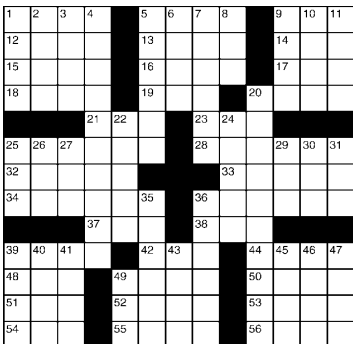
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

1 Combine resources

5 Old "Alice" spinoff

12 Competent

13 Use a paper towel

14 Uncouth

15 Nursery rhyme predator

16 One way to stand by

17 Enos' granny

18 "Swell!"

19 Born

20 Audition, maybe

21 Gladstone, e.g.

23 One whose sweater has a Y

25 Lusters

28 Constant complainer

32 Should

33 Frequent "Love Boat" guest

34 Multitude

36 Foursome

37 Away from SSW

38 Mrs. McKinley

39 Nourish

42 Work with

44 Protuberance

48 Unfriendly

49 Actor Pitt

50 Crossword diagram

51 Feminine pronoun

52 Lenient

Down

1 Kasparov soldier

2 Reed instrument

3 Earthenware pot

4 Like Kevin in "Home Alone"

5 Playground fixtures

6 Staffer

7 Ill will

8 "Yoo-hoo!"

9 Gratis

10 St. Helens output

11 Still unpaid

20 Ell

22 Playwright

24 Dead alcohol

25 Wash

26 Scuttle

27 Differently

28 Verve

29 Earth's nearest star

30 Shade

31 Silty

32 Puffy container

33 Needlefish

34 Mound stat

35 Scepter

36 Pertaining to the CNS

37 T-shirt pattern

38 Seek by groping

39 Toyota

40 Compact

41 Examined

42 Lip

43 Evangelist

44 Roberts

45 Prima donna

46 Land west of

47 Nod

48 Spellbound

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-27

CRYPTOQUIP

OYSU L KGFNLBINTB BDIUT
LCLNUTB TGQSZGFR, N
TDKKGTS YS QNCYB ZSVGQS
LU LIVY SUQR

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEONE LEFT ALPHABET SOUP UNATTENDED ON THE BURNER, IT MIGHT SPELL DISASTER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals P

Big party for baby a bit too much

Dear Abby: Our son is 8 months old, and my wife is busy planning his first birthday party. The party will be in February, which makes it too cold for anything outside.

She plans to invite 50 guests, including children.

Our house is small, so she wants to rent a hall and have the party catered. Is this too much for a first birthday party? We're saving for a new house, and what she has in mind will be expensive.

My wife says I'm cruel for not supporting her idea of a big bash for our son. I think that having an immediate family together, healthy and alive, is special enough. Am I being a curmudgeon?

— Sensible in Norristown, Pa.

Dear Sensible: You're not a curmudgeon—you are someone who has his eye on a goal and

hasn't lost his perspective. The party your wife is planning is really for her, not the baby. All a child that age needs for his birthday is his mommy, his daddy, and a few close relatives to celebrate the occasion with a cake he can put his hands and face into—and, of course, a camera.

Dear Abby:



I am pregnant with my first baby. For some reason, almost every woman I speak to feels the need to tell me about the hell I am about to endure. Apparently I will never spend another minute alone with my husband. My car will be ruined, and my house will be a permanent disaster. Very few people tell me how wonderful it is to be a mom.

I would just ask that when a woman is expecting, please don't assume it's a license to

complain about how terrible it was when your children were young. My husband and I planned this pregnancy, but if I had heard half the horror stories I've heard in the past several months, I probably would have taken a different route.

Mom-to-be in Southern California

Dear Mom-to-be: If parenthood didn't have many rewards, do you think that these doom-spreaders would have had more than one child? While it's only logical that having children is a life-changing experience, it is also an individual process. For some people the adjustment may be painful. However, for many others, the changes are welcome and the joys are bountiful. Think positive and tune the naysayers out.

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DABNY

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PAROE

DOYLOG

RAHBOR

www.jumble.com

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: PRIME BLOOM PANTRY TALLOW
Answer: What the heavenly diners had at the restaurant — A "WAIT" PROBLEM

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron

First, I helped this little old lady across the street, which made me miss my train. Then...



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Partner makes fiasco of finances

Dear Annie: A major problem in my relationship with my partner is about finances. She has said that I am a better money manager, but she refuses to let me manage it. When she has the checkbook, the bills are never paid on time. She goes through large amounts of money with nothing to show for it and no explanation of where it all went. She can go through \$400 in two days. Once she said it was for her daughter's birthday, but the things she told me she bought didn't come close to that amount.

Every payday is a big battle, and it's taking a huge toll on our relationship. We have been to couples' counseling, where she was told that the money situation in our relationship was completely unbalanced. Still, she made no effort to change.

Annie's Mailbox



checkbook, even though she is making a mess of it and cannot account for some of the money, indicates that she is hiding something. It could be a gambling problem, an addiction, or an inability to add and subtract, but something isn't right.

In most relationships, one person is more adept at handling money, and it doesn't matter if the person is male or female. Your partner needs to be honest about what's going on, or you might have to set up separate accounts. Talk to a credit counselor who will help you create a budget and manage your money responsibly. Try the National Foundation for Credit Counseling (nfcc.org) at 1-800-388-2227.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Chevy in Nova Scotia," who bites her nails. You told her to work on her stress levels and maybe get a nice manicure. You

said if all else fails, she should try the OC Foundation.

Please tell her about the wonderful products that can be bought in local pharmacies, often in the nail polish section. You paint them onto your nails, and they taste disgusting. My 8-year-old son stopped sucking his fingers overnight with the help of one of these products. You can find them at www.folicina.com and www.stoppingnails.com.

— Mom in Massachusetts

Dear Mom: Several readers recommended over-the-counter products that taste unpleasant and may help break the habit of biting one's nails or sucking one's thumb.

We have not tried these products and cannot recommend them, but if any readers would like to give them a try, feel free.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



11-27

Circle 61 please. No Cut by King Features Syndicate. www.familycircus.com

"Happily ever after? End of story? Same old cop-out!"

GRAFFITI



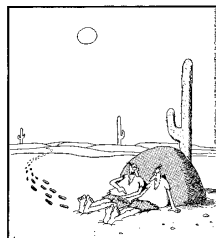
Dennis the Menace



"I LIKE GRANDPA'S ENDING TO THE STORY BETTER THAN YOURS, DAD!"

© Gary Larson

The Far Side



"Are you serious? Look at us! If anything, I'm twice as fat as you are."

Non Sequitur



"THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CHRISTMAS CLIPPING ORGAN"

26 NOVEMBER 27, 2004 11:07 AM

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|--|---|--|---|
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Robinson scores late as Huskies halt Utah

BY DAN JOLING
The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Nate Robinson helped state No. 1 Washington to a big lead early Thursday night against Utah, then helped save off an upset.

Robinson scored 29 points, including eight in the final five minutes, and the Huskies beat Utah 78-71 in the quarterfinals of the Great Alaska Shootout.

After the Utes tied it 66-66 with 2:50 left, the Huskies scored nine straight points to take control. Robinson, held to two points for nearly 15 minutes of the second half, hit three big baskets down the stretch.

Utah's Andrew Bogut, a 7-foot center who's a member of Australia's national team, scored 23 points, including 19 in the second half as the Utes erased an 11-point deficit. He also led the Utes with 12 rebounds.

Brandon Roy added 25 points for Washington (2-0), which will face Oklahoma in the semifinals Friday night. The Sooners beat High Point 93-65.

Robinson hit his first five three-point attempts en route to 19 first-half points. He was also part of a suffocating defense that forced three turnovers and two 5-second violations in the first five minutes as Washington charged to a 16-3 lead. Utah (1-1) got off just six shots in the first eight minutes.

Utah coach Ray Giacometti said the Utes tried to duplicate Washington's pressure in practice this week, but "you just can't unless you face it."

Huskies coach Lorenzo Romar knew coming in that the Utes like to dictate a deliberate offensive pace.

"Our only hope tonight was to try and pressure them as much as we could and not allow them to just move the ball around the horn at will against us," Romar said.

Behind six points by Justin Hawkins, the Utes used a 10-0 run to close within 21-19 midway through the first half.

After a timeout, Roy hit a reverse layup and Robinson two three-points to push the lead back to double digits.

In the second half, Utah chipped away at the lead and twice tied it, the last at 66-66 with 2:50 remaining. Robinson answered with a 12-foot jumper and then with a drive through the post.

Romar said when Robinson was younger, he would have just kept shooting after missing shots early in the second half. On Thursday, the coach added, Robinson showed patience.

"He played within himself, but then down the stretch when we needed a bucket he turned it on again," Romar said. "And great players are able to do that. He picked his spots and when there were openings he was able to come through for us. He made big baskets."

Romar was relieved to escape with a win. "That's a good basketball team. We're talking about one of the top one or two big men in the country in Bogut," Romar said.

"Once he got going in the second half, I thought we were able to see what he was capable of doing — and that's without a whole lot of touches."



Washington's Mike Jensen collides with Utah defender Jonas Langvad (51) while getting off a pass during the first half of Thursday night's quarterfinal game in the Great Alaska Shootout. No. 22 Washington beat the Utes 78-71.

Oklahoma 93, High Point 65: Kevin Bookham had 15 points and 11 rebounds for Oklahoma (2-0) and Drew Lavender added 14 points and seven assists.

The Sooners held High Point (1-1) without a basket for nearly five minutes during a 12-1 run to open the second half that made it 53-28.

Titus Byrd had 16 points for High Point.

Texas too much yet again for Tennessee

BY JIM VERTUNO
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Four and counting. Texas simply owns Tennessee right now.

In what has become a surprisingly one-sided rivalry between two of the dominant programs in women's basketball, No. 4 Texas beat top-ranked Tennessee 74-59 on Thursday night for the Longhorns' fourth straight victory over the Lady Vols.

Tiffany Jackson had 19 points, nine rebounds and a career-high eight blocks in a dominating effort for the Longhorns (2-1).

"Whenever you see Tennessee, you want to bring your best game," Jackson said.

The Longhorns sure do. Since snapping a 13-game losing streak to Tennessee in 2002, the Longhorns have found a way to beat back the Lady Vols' resurgence.

The 15-point margin is the largest during the winning streak and came against a Tennessee team that opened the season at No. 1 in the 11th time in school history.

Texas extended its home winning streak to 38 games, longest in the nation, with a 74-59, a seven-game losing skid to top-ranked teams. Texas hadn't beaten a No. 1 team since knocking off Tennessee in 1987.

And unless something changes with a chance meeting in the post-season, Texas' six seniors will finish their careers with a perfect record against the Lady Vols.

"I think it's always fun against Tennessee," senior guard Jaime Carey said. "I think we've established a nice little rivalry with them."

Texas coach Jody Conradt, who suffered through each of those 13 straight losses, had to chuckle at that.

"I don't see too much nice about it during the 40 minutes on the court," Conradt said.

The rivalry pits two winningest coaches in the women's game: Tennessee's Pat Summitt (824) and Conradt (819) rank 1-2 in victories.

History aside, this game belonged to Jackson.

"Too much Texas for Tennessee," said Summitt, who spent a frustrating night watching her team shoot just 33 percent while allowing Jackson to hit just about anything she wanted on the other end. There was way too much Jackson.

Jackson hit consecutive baskets and had three blocks in the first two minutes of the second half. Then she added a shot ringer, followed by a midcourt steal and layup, to give Texas a 41-30 lead with about 14 minutes to play.

The Longhorns held a double-digit lead for most of the second half.

Tennessee (3-1) never got offensively. Shyra Elzy, a preseason All-American, scored just four points on 2-of-10 shooting.

Small-school coach chasing big number

Statham looking for 880th victory at McKendree

BY NANCY ARMOUR
The Associated Press

Harry Statham thought he was making a temporary stop when he took over as McKendree College's basketball coach in 1966.

His dream was to win a state high school championship, but jobs at the premier high schools were hard to come by, especially for a young coach. Statham figured if he could put together a few successful seasons at McKendree, his alma mater, he'd be able to land a better job.

Almost 40 years later, Statham is still at the small NAIA school in Lebanon, Ill. He never did win that state championship, but he's poised for an even greater milestone. With 878 career victories, Statham is one victory shy of Dean Smith's total. And he could match the famed North Carolina coach, who holds the NCAA record as early as Friday night.

"If you coach long enough, those things happen," said Statham, whose Bearcats play Friday night and Saturday afternoon in the Union University Tournament in Jackson, Tenn.

"I just look at it as an event that's going to happen because



McKendree College's Harry Statham is within one victory of a college basketball milestone: His 880th victory, which would surpass the total won by North Carolina's Dean Smith, holder of the NCAA victory record.

I've been here for 39 years and we've had a consistent program with success," he said. "I'm not sure we've had just great kids in our program."

McKendree is a small liberal arts college with 1,500 students, about 25 minutes east of St. Louis. The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics is a rung below the NCAA, but Statham's numbers speak for themselves.

He's topped 20 victories in 29 of his 38 seasons at McKendree and probably will do it again this year, with his team already 7-1.

He's averaging 27 victories over the past 15 years. He's made

it to the postseason 33 times and took the Bearcats to the semifinals twice in the NAIA national tournament two seasons ago.

He was the NAIA coach of the year for 2002, set that level's career victory record the next season, and is already a member of the NAIA Hall of Fame.

"When I look at our players, that's what makes me proud," Statham said. "It's not one game, it's kind of the compilation of the big events. We did it right. I'm proud to say we didn't bend the rules. We've proved you can do it the right way."

Whether players are wearing short shorts or those baggy ones

that drop below their knees, cutting their hair short or growing it long, Statham has always looked for the same kind of kid. He wants players who are good people, good students and good players — in that order.

"He cares about you as a person before a player," said Chad Storck, a co-captain this year.

Dennis Korte, who played on Statham's first four teams at McKendree, recalled that seven of the nine Bearcats made the dean's list his freshman year, and McKendree's graduation rate is about 85 percent. You'll never see the mug shot of a McKendree player, and phenoms looking for a place to put up stats for a year or two before cashing in on a big-money NBA contract aren't welcome.

The way Statham's teams play hasn't changed much in 40 years. He's tweaked his offense and defense, adding a twist here and there as the game evolved. And he now recruits foreign players and junior-college transfers.

But the Bearcats are still primarily a fast-break team, just like Adolph Rupp's Kentucky Wildcats that Statham followed.

"Coach Rupp was an idol of mine as a youngster," Statham said. "I loved how they played basketball. We always played fast break and that was primarily why, because I liked their teams so much."

Now Statham has more victories than his idol, Rupp won 876 games, second to Smith in NCAA history.

Grizzlies' Brown retires for health reasons

BY TERESA M. WALKER

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Hubie Brown said he stepped down as the coach of the Memphis Grizzlies for two reasons: He lost his spirit, and because of medical issues he wants kept private.

"I need, on a daily basis, an energy and a stamina, and then with me it's a spirit," Brown said Friday at a news conference. "But the key is spirit. The spirit is what gives you the passion on a daily basis."

"One day you wake up, you don't have that, and that's when you've got to understand that it's a time you've got to walk."

The 71-year-old Brown announced his retirement Thursday night, just seven months after he was selected NBA coach of the year for the second time in his long career.

Brown led Memphis to a franchise-best 50-32 record last season and its first playoff appearance. He was given medical clearance to return for his third season with the Grizzlies and had said he had no hesitation coming back.

But he announced his retirement a day after the Grizzlies fell to 5-7 with a 93-84 loss to the Seattle SuperSonics. Brown is 424-495 in the NBA and 528-539 includingABA games.

During the game, Brown was active, ar-



Brown

"My biggest regret is that I didn't meet them when I was in my 40s and 50s because I had more to give than I do now because I was more alert, more astute, more observant ... and I apologized to them because I met them too late in my life."

Hubie Browne

Memphis Grizzlies ex-coach

going with officials, calling out plays and checking on players when they were injured.

Brown was the oldest coach in the NBA when he returned to the league in 2002 after a 16-year break.

"We're going to miss this man tremendously, and more importantly, I think his footprints here ... will be hard to fill," Grizzlies president Jerry West said.

Lionel Hollins was named the team's interim coach and was with the team in Minneapolis for its game Friday night against the Timberwolves.

"Obviously, I was saddened by it," Hollins said. "Coach Brown has done so much for this franchise and this organization,

and the players that he developed and laid a strong foundation of winning, work ethic and discipline."

Brown said his medical problem developed about three weeks ago.

"People are thinking catastrophic levels. ... We're not talking about that," Brown said, declining to be more specific. "I've had things come up that your body gives you a warning sign."

Brown, who led the Kentucky Colonels to the ABA championship in 1975, returned to coaching in 2002 after becoming a TV analyst. He also coached the Atlanta Hawks from 1976-81 and the New York Knicks from 1982-86.

At every stop, Brown's teams won more

games in his first full season than in the previous year.

Brown leaves as the winningest coach in Memphis history with an 83-85 record.

"What Hubie Brown has done for our league in the last two years has been great," Indiana Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said on Thursday. "He brought an injection of life into that Memphis franchise and made them a playoff team."

"He's been a great coach for a long time, but his contributions to our game the last couple of years have been momentous."

His departure news conferences lasted 50 minutes as Brown praised the fans, West, and his players. He told his team of his decision before they left for Minnesota.

"I told them you have regrets when you do this. My biggest regret is that I didn't meet them when I was in my 40s and 50s because I had more to give than I do now because I was more alert, more astute, more observant and I saw more," Brown said. "And I apologized to them because I met them too late in my life."

Memphis' forward James Posey said before the season that Brown could have retired at that time without apologizing.

"He could sit back and have a couple of margaritas or something, but he chose to come back and play for us. He wanted to be around him. He's not willing to give in."

Depleted Pacers win again

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Another improbable win has the Indiana Pacers brimming with confidence.

"Things aren't looking as bad for us as it was four days ago," forward Austin Croshere said.

Indiana has Jamaal Tinsley to thank for that.

Tinsley had 20 points, 14 assists and seven rebounds to lead the Pacers to a 106-102 win over Minnesota on Thursday night, their second win in three games without the suspended Ron Artest, Jermaine O'Neal and Steven Jackson.

NBA roundup

In the absence of their top three scorers, the soft-spoken Tinsley has made the Pacers his team.

"Jamaal Tinsley is the facilitator for" coach Rick Carlisle said. "Right now, he's doing things very few point guards in the league can do."

Indiana was 13-for-25 and 11 rebounds, and Fred Jones added 17 points for the Pacers, who seem to be taking a page out of Olympic gold medalist Argentina's playbook.

The Pacers used teamwork, superior three-point shooting and a relentless point guard to offset talent deficiencies.

Indiana was 13-for-25 from three-point range, consistently beat the Timberwolves to loose balls and made the extra pass for



Indiana Pacers forward Austin Croshere, left, drives to the basket on Minnesota Timberwolves forward Trenton Hassell on Thursday.

wide open shots in their most impressive performance since Artest, O'Neal and Jackson were suspended for fighting with Detroit fans last week.

"On a night like tonight, when it looks like you're outmatched on paper significantly, you can't undersell guys coming together and playing together in front of great fans," Carlisle said.

Kevin Garnett led Minnesota with 23 points and nine rebounds, and Wally Szczerbiak added 18 points.

Artest was suspended for the season, Jackson for 30 games, O'Neal for 25 and Johnson for five for their brawl with Detroit fans, who threw bricks, popcorn, a chair and other debris at Pacers players.

Indiana is also without Reggie Miller, Jeff Foster and Jonathan Bender, who are all on the injured list.

Clippers 101, Nets 88: In Los Angeles, Marko Jaric scored 23 points to lead Los Angeles' balanced scoring and the Clippers beat New Jersey to run the Nets' losing streak to seven games.

Elton Brand scored 17 points and Corey Maggette had 16 to help the Clippers end a three-game losing streak of their own.

Richard Jefferson scored 24 points for New Jersey, and Travis Best added 16.

The Nets' slump is their worst since the 2000-01 season, when they also dropped seven in a row from Jan. 23 to Feb. 2.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

| W | L | PB | GB |
|--------------|---|----|-----|
| Toronto | 6 | 7 | 462 |
| New York | 5 | 8 | 465 |
| Philadelphia | 5 | 8 | 465 |
| Boston | 4 | 9 | 460 |
| New Jersey | 2 | 9 | 482 |

Southeast Division

| W | L | PB | GB |
|------------|---|----|-----|
| Miami | 4 | 6 | 492 |
| Orlando | 6 | 6 | 490 |
| Washington | 5 | 7 | 493 |
| Charlotte | 2 | 8 | 500 |
| Atlanta | 2 | 8 | 512 |

Central Division

| W | L | PB | GB |
|-----------|---|----|-----|
| Indiana | 9 | 3 | 750 |
| Cleveland | 4 | 7 | 438 |
| Detroit | 5 | 6 | 455 |
| Minnesota | 3 | 7 | 460 |
| Chicago | 1 | 9 | 100 |

Western Conference

Southwest Division

| W | L | PB | GB |
|-------------|---|----|-----|
| San Antonio | 9 | 3 | 750 |
| Dallas | 8 | 5 | 415 |
| Phoenix | 5 | 8 | 462 |
| Memphis | 5 | 7 | 417 |
| New Orleans | 1 | 9 | 100 |

Northwest Division

| W | L | PB | GB |
|----------|----|----|-----|
| Seattle | 11 | 2 | 846 |
| Utah | 7 | 5 | 583 |
| Denver | 6 | 5 | 545 |
| Portland | 6 | 5 | 545 |

Pacific Division

| W | L | PB | GB |
|-------------|----|----|-----|
| Phoenix | 12 | 2 | 833 |
| Sacramento | 7 | 4 | 636 |
| LA Lakers | 7 | 5 | 583 |
| LA Clippers | 6 | 5 | 500 |
| Minnesota | 3 | 7 | 300 |

Thursday's games

Indiana 102, New Jersey 88

Friday's games

Washington at Portland

Portland at Dallas

Philadelphia at Cleveland

Cleveland at Boston

Miami at Detroit

Charlotte at Indiana

Memphis at Houston

Houston at Memphis

San Antonio at Denver

New Orleans at Phoenix

New Jersey at Seattle

LA Lakers at LA Lakers

LA Clippers at Golden State

Atlanta at Detroit

Toronto at New York

Atlanta at Charlotte

Philadelphia at Orlando

Chicago at Cleveland

LA Lakers at San Antonio

Denver at Houston

Detroit at Milwaukee

Sunday's games

Washington at Toronto

Golden State at LA Clippers

Boston at Miami

New Jersey at Portland

Indiana at Seattle

Minnesota at Sacramento

New Orleans at LA Lakers

Thursday

Pacers 106, T-wolves 102

MINNESOTA — Szczerbiak 6-10 5-15, Has-

sel 10-16, Garnett 6-11 3-13, Szczerbiak 10-16

7-12 1-11, Cassell 4-9 2-10, Hudson 8-8-4

2-13, Holmgren 2-2 2-7, Madison 6-0-0-4

Griffin 2-4 0-5 2-5, Traylor 3-7 1-2, 102

INDIANA — Jones 5-8 0-0, P-13, 11, 13, 13

6-11 10-11-25, Harrison 4-8 0-0, 11-12

2-2, 7, Tinsley 7-6 4-20, O'Neal 6-13 1-13

10-12 2-2, 2-2, Johnson 1-2 2-2, 7-2, 10-12

0-2, 0-2, 10-12 7-17 19-106

Indiana 26 21 30 106

Three-Point Goals—Minnesota 5-14 (Grif-

fin 1-1, Holberg 1-2, Szczerbiak 1-3, Szczerbiak

1-3, Hudson 1-5), Indiana 12-28

8-18, 2-5, Jones 3-8, Tinsley 2-3, Gill

2-3, Johnson 0-1), Fouled out—Madison, Re-

bounds—Minnesota 4 (Garnett 2), Indiana

4 (Croschere 1), Assist—Minnesota 19

Garnett 5, Indiana 25 (Tinsley 14), Total

fouls—Minnesota 22, Indiana 19, Techni-

cal—Minnesota 22, defensive Three Second.

A—17,149 (18,345).

Clippers 101, Nets 88

NEW JERSEY — E. Williams 5-9 4-8 14, Col-

lins 17 0-0, Mourning 15 5-24, Jefferson

18-7 2-4, Platoro 11-11 0-0, 10-16

Scalabrine 4-10 10, Buford 21 2-6

A. Williams 2-18 4-14, Vaughn 0-0 0-0, 10-16

1-1 0-1, 2, Storey 1-1 0-0 2-10, 33-76 20-28

LA CLIPPERS — Simmons 4-7 5-13, 13

4-12 8-16, Jaric 6-9 7-23, Kaman 3-4 1-1

2-12 1-2, 3-12 1-1 1-1, 2-12 2-6

2-12 1-2, 3-12 3-11 101

New Jersey 21 24 27 88

LA Clippers 24 24 27 101

Three-Point Goals—New Jersey 2-11 (Scal-

abrine 0-1), Madison 0-3, 0-3

0-3), Nets—Rebounds—New Jersey 44 (Jefferson

15), Williams 6), LA Clippers 42 (Griff 17)

Assists—New Jersey 14 (Collins, Jefferson

8), LA Clippers 23 (Jaric 6), Total

fouls—New Jersey 24, LA Clippers 26

A—12,629 (18,964).

NBA calendar

Jan. 5 — 10-day contracts may be signed.
Jan. 10 — All player contracts guaranteed for rest of the season.

Feb. 18-20 — All-Star weekend, Denver.
Feb. 24 — Trading deadline, 3 p.m. EST.

April 20 — Regular season ends.
April 21 — Playoffs begin.

June 7-10 — NBA predraft camp, Chicago.
June 7 — Earliest possible NBA Finals start date.

June 21 — Early entry draft withdrawal deadline.

June 23 — Latest possible NBA Finals end date.
June 28 — NBA draft, New York.

Respect is taking a beating

Courtesy lies bleeding on the floor.
Sportsmanship is in a crumpled heap over in the corner.

Simple civility is face down out in the alley.

And respect ... ahh, respect is on life support.

Aretha Franklin, the songbird with sweet, contagious soul, spells it out for all of us:

"R-E-S-P-E-C-T."

It's what we're missing in sports these days. And, by extension, in society, too.

We don't honor the game or respect its integrity or credit our foes or feel an obligation to our teammates or a debt of gratitude toward the fans. And in the end, most shameful of all, we dishonor ourselves.

We succumb to the punk philosophy. We celebrate, and then mimic, the thuggish.

Respect? That's for chumps, and the clueless and the cool-les.

It is not enough merely to win. We must embarrass the other team, humiliate our opponent, pose and flex and snarl, taunt and bait and provoke.

Or flip the bird to that moron in the SUV who cut us off in the mall parking lot.

Or curse the Little League umpire for his call at first base, no

matter that he is on top of the play and we are a hundred yards away.

Or stew in our bile at the slowness of the supermarket checkout line in which we are gridlocked.

A college football game in South Carolina begins with a dust-up between opposing teams and ends with a full-field brawl, and the only consolation is that the fans didn't come down out of the stands and the players didn't go up into the stands.

No, that was saved for the professionals, for an NBA game in Michigan, instead.

(Could you not offer a silent but earnest thank-you that this did not occur in Philadelphia? All the old ghosts would have been dragged out of the closet: Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, snowballs, boos, et al. Folks, we dodged a lightning bolt.)

Now, frighteningly, the boundaries in sport have blurred. The playing field used to be off-limits, and the bleachers, too. But both borders were violated in that Pistons-Pacers game.

Bill Lyon



There is no sanctuary now. No safe house. No cease-fire zone.

While he was meting out the punishment, NBA Commissioner David Stern, obviously shaken by the incident, mentioned the sacrosanct "social contract" between players and fans, and how it had been broken.

He meant the unspoken understanding that there were certain things one side didn't do and certain places the other side didn't go. Now that understanding has been breached.

It has been obvious for some time now that there is a sense of disconnect, not just in the NBA but in most sports. The emotional tether is stretched thin. The mix is volatile: Pampered, indulged athletes feel a sense of entitlement and have no perspective at all (a star laments how he cannot feed his family on a paltry \$10 million per annum), and beer-brave provocateurs feel emboldened enough to fling whatever is handy, confident that they can hide in the crowd.

Arrogance and cowardice on parade.

The debate about exactly what the price of admission entitles a spectator to is ever continuing. Common sense should be enough to set those boundaries. But lately our society has blurred that as well because we keep ourselves



KOT

South Carolina football players surround a Clemson player during the brawl near the end of last Saturday's game in Clemson, S.C.

line or the white line.

So, what do we do?

I wish I were smart enough to have an answer.

The usual recommendations after such incidents include beefing up security, though that is all but logistically impossible, and cutting off beer sales early.

Or, we could start simply by being nicer to one another, by practicing a little of that "R-E-S-P-E-C-T."

Too simplistic, too naive, too old-fashioned, right?

Bill Lyon is a columnist for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

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Palko leads Pitt upset in Backyard Brawl



Pittsburgh quarterback Tyler Palko (3) scores the game-winning touchdown as he drags West Virginia linebacker Adam Lelton into the end zone during the fourth quarter of Pittsburgh's 16-13 win on Thursday.

BY ALAN ROBINSON
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — He won a game at Notre Dame that appeared lost in the fourth quarter. He won a game against rival West Virginia that appeared lost in the fourth quarter. With every game, Tyler Palko keeps taking the Pitt Panthers farther than they ever expected to go.

Now, after yet another comeback, Palko seems ready to take the Panthers (7-3, 4-2 Big East) where haven't gone in 22 seasons: a New Year's Day bowl game.

"This is a huge step for us," offensive tackle Rob Pettit said of Pittsburgh's 16-13 Backyard Brawl upset on Nov. 21 West Virginia on Thursday night.

"We're sick of people saying we're not good ... of saying we can't win big games. I remember when the season started, and we were like No. 70 in the country. Nobody thought we could do this."

Tyler Palko did. He convinced the Panthers they could win at Notre Dame for the first time in 18 years, and he led two scoring drives in the final 3 minutes of the 41-38 upset victory on Nov. 13. He convinced the Panthers they could win Thursday night, even when they hadn't scored a touchdown all night and needed to drive nearly 75 yards in the closing minutes to do so.

"That's what I kept hearing when they gave me the keys to this bus — we need a quarterback who can win big games," the sophomore said, referring to Pitt's recent history of failing against its

big rivals and ranked opponents. "I expect to win big games."

Because Pitt suddenly can win such games, the team that barely beat Division I-AA Furman and Big East weakening Temple appears headed to the Gator Bowl on Jan. 1, possibly against Florida State.

And if Syracuse should upset Big East leader Boston College on Saturday, the Panthers would likely wind up with the conference's guaranteed BCS bowl bid and a Fiesta Bowl date against Utah.

Last year, the Panthers finished 8-5 and lost to West Virginia and Notre Dame despite having Heisman Trophy runner-up Larry Fitzgerald. Maybe Fitzgerald needed Tyler Palko, who has thrown for 1,159 yards and 11 touchdowns in his past four games.

"Ever since I've been here, it seems we come up short (in the fourth quarter)," Pettit said. "Tyler Palko won't let us do that. He expects us to win, and he's just great to have in the huddle. He's a great leader."

Palko, the son of one of Pittsburgh's top high school coaches, was only 14 of 38 for 165 yards and an interception but was nearly perfect while leading the decisive 73-yard drive. He completed four consecutive passes on third downs before scoring the go-ahead touchdown on a 2-yard rollout with 4:06 remaining.

The Mountaineers (8-3, 4-2) had a chance to win until quarterback Rasheed Marshall — who ran for 104 yards and passed for 145 — threw incomplete on

fourth and 6 from the Pitt 33 with 42 seconds remaining. The play before, wide receiver Dwayne Thomas just missed completing a flea flicker pass into the end zone to Marshall that H.B. Blades might have tipped.

"It was a play we put in this week," said Marshall, who was without his top receiver, the suspended Chris Henry. "I had my hands on it and I felt it should have been a score."

The Mountaineers also felt it should have been a win, but special teams mistakes doomed them just as they did when Boston College returned two punts for touchdowns in a 36-17 upset in Morgantown on Nov. 13.

Brad Cooper missed two of four field-goal tries, Phil Brady averaged only 29.3 yards on four punts and the Mountaineers twice drew penalties for running into Pitt punter Adam Graessle among their 89 penalty yards.

"They didn't play well enough to beat us. Every time we got an advantage, we hurt ourselves," West Virginia cornerback Adam Jones said. "This one hurts really bad."

West Virginia also caught a bad break when Lee appeared to trap one of his three third-down receptions on the decisive drive, only to be awarded the catch.

Now, instead of the Fiesta or Gator Bowl, the Mountaineers might have to settle for the Insight Bowl.

"This season is not a total loss," coach Rich Rodriguez said.

"We've won eight games this year, but it's very disappointing because we felt we had opportunities to win had we played better."

Notre Dame could play key role in Heisman voting

BY ROBYN NORWOOD
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Matt Leinart was watching from the sideline the night people say Carson Palmer wrapped up the Heisman Trophy.

"It was awesome — Notre Dame playing at the Coliseum with Carson right in the thick of his Heisman campaign, and he has a great game," Leinart said. "It just really kind of solidified his position to win that trophy."

"It's cool that this year it's kind of the same kind of situation — national television, a big game."

With a chance to play for the national championship still in the balance, No. 1 USC has a lot more on the line against Notre Dame on Saturday at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum than adding another stiff-arming bronze to its collection.

Still, people like to say the Heisman goes through Notre Dame, and this will be as good a test as any of that theory.

Players from Notre Dame have won seven Heismans, more than any other school. They probably have annoyed more winners for other schools as well.

Think Desmond Howard in 1991, when Michigan went for the end zone on fourth and inches from the 25 and Howard stretched out to catch a ball hardly anyone thought he could reach.

Think USC's Charles White in 1979, when he ran for 261 yards, or Pittsburgh's Tony Dorsett in 1976.

A year after Dorsett had set a record that still stands by rushing for 303 yards against the Irish, he ran for 61 on the opening play against them and finished with 181.

There was Roger Staubach in 1963, when he led Navy to its last victory over Notre Dame. And in 1952, it was Oklahoma's Billy Vessels, averaging more than 11 yards a carry in a 195-yard performance.

For years, Notre Dame has been the great barometer — partly because the Irish were always good, and partly because they were always on TV. Not that a spectacular performance against Notre Dame is a prerequisite for winning the Heisman.

The point is, for ages, Notre Dame has been the standard-setter in Heisman races.

But should the Irish still be? Palmer rattled a unit that ranked second in the nation in pass-efficiency defense and was part of a 10-1 team that still had a chance to play in a BCS game.

Leinart will face a 6-4 team that ranks 72nd in pass-efficiency defense, dragged down by a weak secondary that has the Irish ranked 107th among 117 teams in pass yardage defense, giving up more than 261 a game.

People practically wanted to give Purdue's Kyle Orton the Heisman after he'd passed for 385 yards and four touchdowns

against Notre Dame in October, and he isn't even a factor anymore.

Against the Irish, Boston College's Paul Peterson passed for 383 yards, and Pittsburgh's Tyler Palko threw for 334 yards and five touchdowns.

Against the Irish, he put the stamp of approval on everybody these days," said Dick Weiss of the New York Daily News, one of 923 Heisman voters and president of the Football Writers Association of America.

This isn't the last game for Leinart. He'll follow up his performance against Notre Dame with a game against UCLA — 57th in pass defense.

The question is whether playing Notre Dame means as much to Heisman hopefuls as it used to.

"No," said ESPN analyst Beano Cook, a longtime Heisman voter. "Now, everyone's on TV. If it weren't for cable, Barry Sanders doesn't win for Oklahoma State, Andre Ware doesn't win for Houston. Because of cable, you can show the highlights."

But logical or not, when it comes to the Heisman race, Notre Dame still matters.

"It's still a great stage," said Malcolm Moran of USA Today, another voter. "It's not the same rivalry if they're 6-4, but it's still national TV ... and the voters will be watching, because at that point, there's not that much on."

In a murky year for the Heisman, that might matter, as voters ponder whether to give another trophy to Oklahoma's Jason White, honor Leinart for his performance



Southern California quarterback Matt Leinart (1) in action during a game.

in leading the No. 1 team, pluck Utah's Alex Smith from near obscurity or give it to Oklahoma freshman Adrian Peterson or eye-catching USC sophomore Reggie Bush.

"A big night in that kind of spotlight, even though they're a little down, in terms of perception, that moment could be the tie-breaker," Moran said.

And it is about moments, as much as it's about numbers.

Olowokandi sits after arrest outside club

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Minnesota Timberwolves center Michael Olowokandi was arrested early Thursday after police used a stun gun to subdue him when he refused to leave a club.

Olowokandi, 29, was taken into custody about 3 a.m. after he refused to leave Tiki Bob's, said Indianapolis Police spokesman Sgt. Stephen Staletoich.

Sports briefs

He was charged with disorderly conduct and criminal trespassing, both misdemeanors, Staletoich said.

The center was suspended by the team for conduct against the Indiana Pacers for "conduct detrimental to the team." Timberwolves general manager Jim Staletoich said in a statement.

Olowokandi was held overnight in an Indianapolis jail and released Thursday afternoon.

Staletoich said the club's manager asked police, who were investigating another call, to help him get the 7-foot Olowokandi to leave. He refused, and police shocked him twice with a stun gun until he complied and then took him into custody.

"We are extremely disappointed in Michael Olowokandi's actions last night," Stack said. "Regardless of how the incident escalated, he never should have been in that situation. The Minnesota Timberwolves do not condone this type of behavior or any actions that negatively impact our franchise."

Olowokandi is averaging 5.3 points and 5.2 rebounds this season.

Timberwolves point guard Sam Cassell said the situation would not distract the team.

"Distractions only happen on the court," Cassell said. "Michael's a human being. We support him. Let's not jump on him. Let's get all the facts first."

Stack alluded to the Pacers' brawl with Detroit fans last week in chastising Olowokandi. Ron Artest was suspended for the season, Stephen Jackson for 30 games and Jermaine O'Neal for 25 games for fighting with Pistons fans who threw drinks, popcorn, a chair and other debris at them.

"The heightened sensitivity to these types of issues in the league today make his actions even more disappointing," Stack said.

Wizards coach hospitalized

WASHINGTON — Washington Wizards coach Eddie Jordan was hospitalized with a blood clot in his left leg and will miss the next two games.

Jordan, 49, felt discomfort in his leg and was hospitalized Thursday night after consulting with a team trainer, the Wizards said Friday. He was resting comfortably and was expected to remain in the hospital for several days.

Assistant Mike O'Koren will coach the team during Jordan's absence. The Wizards play the Philadelphia 76ers on Friday night and the Toronto Raptors on Sunday. Jordan is in his second season with the Wizards, after four years as an assistant with the New Jersey Nets. He also coached the Sacramento Kings in the 1997-98 season.

IOC recommends expulsion for Bulgarian official

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — The IOC recommended Friday that Bulgaria's top Olympic official be expelled from the organization for unethical conduct.

Ivan Slavkov has been suspended from the IOC since Aug. 7 after being implicated in a BBC television investigation into alleged corruption in the bid city process. IOC president Jacques Rogge said the executive board found Slavkov has "not abided by the Olympic charter and he has tarnished the image of the International Olympic Committee."

"There is zero tolerance for unethical behavior in the IOC and today's decision reinforces this position," Rogge said.

The executive board acted on the recommendation of the IOC ethics commission. A final decision goes to the full IOC general assembly, which meets in July in Singapore. A two-thirds vote of the 100-plus members is required for expulsion.

Slavkov was secretly filmed by an undercover crew discussing how votes could be bought in the race for the 2012 Summer Olympics. He contends he knew it was a setup and played along to expose what he thought was a real attempt to corrupt the process.

The 64-year-old Slavkov, president of Bulgaria's national Olympic committee and an IOC member since 1987, is taking legal action against the BBC for using "illegal means of surveillance."

Russia, France to play for Fed Cup

MOSCOW — Defending champion France and Russia swept their semifinals

Thursday and will play for the Fed Cup championship.

French Open champion Anastasia Myskina and U.S. Open winner Svetlana Kuznetsov won singles matches to power Russia past Austria 5-0. France, led by Nathalie Dechy and Tatiana Golovin, defeated Spain by the same score.

France beat Russia in the semifinals in Moscow last season.

France will be playing in its third final this weekend, having won the previous two. Russia is in the fifth final but has never won.

"If we don't succeed in playing our best tennis, we have no chance to win at all," France captain Guy Forget said. "And if we do manage to play our best tennis from the first point to the last — which is not easy — maybe we have a small chance."

Myskina rallied past Yvonne Meusburger 6-3, 6-1, 6-1 to give Russia an unbeatable 3-0 lead. Kuznetsova then routed Daniela Kix 6-1, 6-1, and the doubles team of Elena Likhovtseva and Kuznetsova completed the rout with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Meusburger and Patricia Wartusch.

The Russian team faces a delicate matter after Myskina said she will quit the Fed Cup squad if Maria Sharapova joins the squad next year. Myskina says she doesn't like the Wimbledon champion's father.

Sharapova has never played for the team, and she wasn't invited because of her tight calendar, captain Shamil Tarpishev said.

Myskina said her problem is with Sharapova's father, coach Yuri.

"I feel his behavior is totally incorrect, simply rude. I don't want to be around people like him," Myskina said.

"The photo is actually woven into the blanket so wash after wash the image will never fade."

Family

Baby
Toddler
Mom&Dad
Grandma&Gramps



Pets

Dog
Horse
Cat
Bird

Holidays

Mother's Day
Father's Day
Christmas
Valentine's Day



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"It's the season to focus on tuning out unruly athletes

By DALE HOFMANN

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

MILWAUKEE — The truly brave and impatient started their holiday shopping Friday while the rest of us enjoy the Christmas music and perfect our procrastination skills. It's a special time of year for everybody, and wouldn't it be nice if the world of sports treated it that way just once?

What do you suppose would happen if athletes, coaches, owners, advisers, broadcasters and fans designated the weeks between now and New Year's Day as time off for good behavior? They might not know how to act at first, but chances are it would come to them before long.

If all those unpaid suspensions left the Indiana Pacers short on players, at least it improved their cash flow. They could reap some public relations damage by donating the extra money they don't use for signing requirements to food pantries throughout the Midwest for the holidays.

The unrepentant Ron Artest might want to consider earmarking some of the proceeds from the CD he now has all year to promote to mental health charities. And CD consumers who care about sports should spend their gift amounts on just about anything else to send Artest a message.

We're hearing so much these days about the disconnect between athletes and the public, expressed at best in grumbling and at worst in thrown cups and

chairs, when all the fans really have to do to resolve it is vote with their feet.

Commentary

Just from now until New Year's, all of the folks who disapprove of acts like Kobe Bryant's adultery or the Pacers players' thuggery should make it a point not to cheer or boo them, but simply to stay home or snap off the TV wherever they appear.

Far better to focus on real heroes. Holiday note to teams: Let those same people and let them in free to every game that is not sold out between now and January.

Holiday note to reporters: Spend the air time instead on athletes who give their time and money to causes because it's right, not because it's a write-off.

Holiday note to trainers: Spend into joining the quiet athletes. And get around to seeing some people in hospitals, nursing homes, schools and Boys and Girls clubs, because you could be the best gift they get this year. Maybe the only one.

Henson's time will have to wait

Testaverde replaces rookie, leads fourth-quarter rally in win over bumbling Bears

BY JAIME ARON
The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Bill Parcells wants to develop Drew Henson into an NFL quarterback and he wants to win games. If he has to pick one, he'll take winning every time.

So with the Dallas Cowboys and Chicago Bears playing terribly and tied at halftime, Parcells decided he'd seen enough from the rookie. He pulled Henson from his first start, turned to Vinny Testaverde and walked away smiling with a 21-7 victory Thursday, ending a three-game losing streak and winning for the just second time since September.

"I'm going to relax and enjoy this," Parcells said. "I don't know whether we were going to get another one or not for a while."

At least the Cowboys (4-7) came away feeling good about one youngster on offense, running back Julius Jones. The second-round pick from Notre Dame followed his 81-yard, 30-carry performance in his starting debut last Sunday with 150 yards and two touchdowns on 33 carries.

This game was going to be memorable for Jones regardless of the outcome because he was starting against his big brother, Chicago running back Thomas Jones. That Jones was the best thing the Bears (4-7) had on offense, too, but he had 46 yards on 14 carries and 48 more on six receptions weren't enough.

When time expired, they shared a long hug, with Thomas holding Julius' head and whispering congratulations into his ear. They then smiled and posed for pictures.

"It was really a blessing for me to be out there and playing with my brother and having all my family watching me," Julius Jones said. "It's something we dreamed about."

Henson also dreamed about this opportunity, his first NFL start and his first in a meaningful game since the Citrus Bowl on Jan. 1, 2001, when he was a junior at Michigan. He spent the past three years playing baseball in the New York Yankees organization and decided to return to football late last year.

He made his debut five days earlier, going 6-for-6 with a touchdown at the end of a lopsided loss after Testaverde was hurt.

Parcells was reluctant to start Henson, but had to give him most of the work in practice while Testaverde rested.

Henson seemed to pick up where he'd left off, leading a 62-yard, five-play drive that included a nifty 33-yard touchdown run by Julius Jones. But the only points Henson produced the rest of the half were for Chicago — an interception that K.W. McClure returned 45 yards for touchdown.

Henson went into halftime four of 12 for 31 yards. Parcells told him, "Good job," and that he was going with Testaverde.

Testaverde spent the second half mostly standing alone, flipping through overhead pictures and listening to play calls.



Dallas quarterback Drew Henson made his first NFL start on Thursday and was pulled after the first half.

"You go in and try not to make mistakes, but the times that you do, you just learn from it," Henson said. "There were a couple of throws I'd like back, but we got out of here with a win. That's something to build on."

The way Dallas has been playing, fans would gladly trade losses to get experience for Henson. He got the loudest cheers in pregame introductions and Testaverde was booed when he took over.

"I know everyone has been clamoring for this. I don't care," Parcells said. "I've got other peoples' interests to consider. I really don't care. I'm going to do what I think is best."

Testaverde started slowly, then in the fourth quarter capped a Julius Jones-led drive with a 2-yard touchdown pass to Darian Barnes. An interception on Chicago's next snap brought the Cowboys right back onto the field and soon thereafter Jones scampered 4 yards up the middle for his second touchdown.

Parcells wouldn't say who will start at quarterback at Seattle on Monday night.

The Bears lost their second straight since winning three in a row. Again, an ineffective offense was mostly to blame.

Rookie quarterback Craig Krenzel was 5-for-10 for 46 yards, then left with a strained ankle midway through the second quarter.

Replacement Jonathan Quinn was 10-for-21 for 86 yards and two interceptions, both in the fourth quarter.

Bears coach Lovie Smith is so exasperated by his quarterback play that he jokingly asked a reporter, "Can you play quarterback?"

"The defense kept us in it," Smith said. "We had a chance to win."

Chicago could've gone up 10-7 in the third quarter, but Paul Edinger missed a 48-yard field goal. The Bears lost the game away, and Manning watched the fourth quarter from the bench.

Indianapolis is 8-3 and leading the AFC South, but as good as the offense is, the Colts are almost as shaky on the other side of the ball. The defense has played better the past three games, but still ranks 31st in yards allowed.

Stokley and others expect Manning to throw at least four touchdown passes a

NFL scoreboard

American Conference

| East | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|--------------|---|---|---|------|-----|-----|
| New England | 9 | 1 | 0 | .900 | 264 | 171 |
| N.Y. Giants | 9 | 1 | 0 | .900 | 212 | 161 |
| Buffalo | 9 | 1 | 0 | .900 | 212 | 161 |
| Miami | 1 | 9 | 0 | .100 | 140 | 239 |
| South | | | | | | |
| Indianapolis | 3 | 0 | 0 | .727 | 380 | 210 |
| Jacksonville | 6 | 4 | 0 | .600 | 166 | 161 |
| Houston | 4 | 6 | 0 | .400 | 159 | 219 |
| Tennessee | 4 | 6 | 0 | .400 | 186 | 212 |
| North | | | | | | |
| Pittsburgh | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 240 | 161 |
| Baltimore | 7 | 3 | 0 | .700 | 204 | 140 |
| Cincinnati | 4 | 6 | 0 | .400 | 183 | 188 |
| Cleveland | 4 | 6 | 0 | .400 | 177 | 208 |
| West | | | | | | |
| Denver | 7 | 3 | 0 | .700 | 233 | 167 |
| San Diego | 7 | 3 | 0 | .700 | 205 | 139 |
| Oakland | 7 | 3 | 0 | .700 | 182 | 170 |
| Kansas City | 3 | 7 | 0 | .300 | 276 | 265 |

National Conference

| East | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---------------|---|---|---|-------|-----|-----|
| Philadelphia | 9 | 1 | 0 | .900 | 269 | 159 |
| N.Y. Giants | 9 | 1 | 0 | .900 | 156 | 113 |
| Dallas | 4 | 7 | 0 | .364 | 193 | 289 |
| Washington | 7 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 131 | 178 |
| South | | | | | | |
| Atlanta | 4 | 6 | 0 | .400 | 208 | 194 |
| Tampa Bay | 4 | 6 | 0 | .400 | 192 | 182 |
| Carolina | 4 | 6 | 0 | .400 | 211 | 286 |
| Carolina | 3 | 7 | 0 | .300 | 196 | 222 |
| Green Bay | 6 | 4 | 0 | .600 | 256 | 230 |
| Minnesota | 6 | 4 | 0 | .600 | 256 | 245 |
| Minnesota | 4 | 6 | 0 | .400 | 192 | 197 |
| Chicago | 4 | 6 | 0 | .400 | 211 | 286 |
| West | | | | | | |
| Seattle | 4 | 6 | 0 | .400 | 230 | 254 |
| Arizona | 4 | 6 | 0 | .400 | 177 | 214 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 9 | 0 | .100 | 175 | 286 |

Thursday's games

Indianapolis 41, Detroit 9
Dallas 21, Chicago 7

Tennessee at Houston
Washington at Pittsburgh
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants
Cleveland at Cincinnati

Philadelphia at Kansas City
Tampa Bay at Carolina
Jacksonville at Minnesota
New Orleans at Atlanta

Buffalo at Seattle
N.Y. Jets at Arizona
Miami at Seattle
Baltimore at New England

Monday's game
St. Louis at Cincinnati

Thursday
Colts 41, Lions 9
Indianapolis 13 14 14 0-41
Detroit 6 3 0 0-41

First Quarter
Ind.—Stokley 4 pass from Manning (Vanderjagt kick), 2:20.

Ind.—Stokley 4 pass from Manning (Vanderjagt kick), 2:20.

Ind.—Stokley 4 pass from Manning (Vanderjagt kick), 2:20.

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Ind.—Stokley 4 pass from Manning (Vanderjagt kick), 2:20.

Ind.—Harrison 13 pass from Manning (Vanderjagt kick), 5:0.

Ind.—Harrison 13 pass from Manning (Vanderjagt kick), 5:0.

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Ind.—Harrison 13 pass from Manning (Vanderjagt kick), 5:0.

Records: Manning's memorable season might be short of Super

RECORDS, FROM BACK PAGE

least four TD passes in five straight games and having 41 in 11 games.

He wasn't just throwing the words so the fans he plays with would be happy. Yes, he got a \$34.5 million signing bonus this year, but that and the rest of his \$98 million contract wasn't given to him simply to get his name in the record book.

"I feel uncomfortable talking about anything individual," Manning said. "I just want to keep winning."

His teammates weren't so reserved. "When he's retired, they'll compare every play to Peyton Manning. Without a doubt," said Brandon Stokley, who caught three of Manning's touchdown passes in a 41-9 romp over the Detroit Lions.

"It's awesome what he's doing and it's awesome what our team is doing," offensive tackle Tarkie Glenn said.

Awsome may not be the word to describe the Colts, though it might be if they could play the Lions every week. Two touchdown passes in 90 seconds of the second quarter put the game away, and Manning watched the fourth quarter from the bench.

Indianapolis is 8-3 and leading the AFC South, but as good as the offense is, the Colts are almost as shaky on the other side of the ball. The defense has played better the past three games, but still ranks 31st in yards allowed.

Stokley and others expect Manning to throw at least four touchdown passes a

game, but the deeper you go into the playoffs the harder that is to do.

"There is going to be a time, or there might be three times, when you have to shut people down," coach Tony Dungy said.

Even less encouraging for the Colts making a Super Bowl run for the first time since 1970 when they were in Baltimore and led by a quarterback named Johnny Unitas is that Indianapolis will likely have to go on the road and win in a cold place like Pittsburgh or New England.

And, if the Colts don't get it done this year, it figures to get even tougher. Both Peyton Manning and Steve McNair are free agents and, with Manning's huge contract, it's unlikely Indianapolis can afford to keep both.

For now, though, this season is rapidly nearing an end. Just five regular-season games remain, and the Colts can start peaking ahead to some possible playoff matchups that might get them in the Super Bowl.

"That's the goal. That's what it's always been for me," Manning said. "We've been knocking on the door. Hopefully, we'll have an opportunity to get to the playoffs. That's all we want to do — get to the playoffs and maybe try to get hot."

If they do, Manning just might get the ring that helps define great quarterbacks.

If not, it will be a long offseason no matter how many times his name goes in the record books.

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: tdahlberg@sp.org

Lions' Drummond out for year

The Associated Press

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — A fractured shoulder blade — A fractured shoulder blade will keep Detroit Lions return specialist Eddie Drummond out for the remainder of the season.

A CT scan showed a minor break, coach Steve Mariucci said Friday.

The team had not decided whether to place Drummond on injured reserve.

"He's going to be out," Mariucci said. "The sad part is that this probably keeps him off the Pro Bowl ballot."

Drummond, who has scored on four punt and kickoff returns this season, has been on the opening kickoff of the second half of Detroit's 41-9 Thanksgiving Day loss to Indianapolis.

He will miss the chance to be the first NFL player with five scores off punt or kickoff returns in a season.

SPORTS



Sideline most of the season, WR Branch is catching on again with the Patriots, Page 35

Records, not rings, within reach



With six touchdown passes Thursday at Detroit, Colts quarterback Peyton Manning (18) seems a clinch to break the season record for TD passes.

Peyton's place in history might hinge on Colts' problematic postseason woes

BY TIM DAHLBERG
The Associated Press

Peyton Manning had barely made it to the locker room, and already the talking heads on the network NFL shows were debating his place in history.

Analysis

Two of them had more than a passing interest in what will almost certainly become the greatest one-season passing display by an NFL quarterback. Dan Marino watched as Manning threw six touchdowns in less than three quarters, breaking one of his records in the process. Barring a broken right arm, he's also a lock to erase the record of 48 touchdown passes in a season Marino set in 1984.

"I thought 48 was something no one would touch or get close to," Marino said.

Marino has held the record for 20 years, but



Most TD passes in a season

Dan Marino, Mia. '84 .48
Dan Marino, Mia. '86 .44
P. Manning, Ind. '94 .41
Kurt Warner, St.L. '99 .41
Brett Favre, G.B. '96 .39

Manning needs just eight touchdown passes in his next five games to take it away.

Unlike Marino, Terry Bradshaw owns something no one can take away — four Super Bowl rings. Marino may be the career passing yardage leader with 61,361 yards, but he got to the big game only once — in his second season — and never won one in 17 years.

Statistics are great to settle bar bets, and they're a good way to fill up record books. But great players are remembered by how much they won, and Marino's legacy will always be tarnished by the fact he never won the big one.

Bradshaw did, so allow him some slack for bragging about it on Thanksgiving Day.

"My passing rating? It was four Super

Bowls," Bradshaw said.

Manning hopes to someday be able to make a similar claim for himself. He's already won an MVP award and figures to win another this year unless he and the Indianapolis Colts collapse in the final month of the season.

But right now Manning has more in common with Marino than he has with Bradshaw. He's easily the most talented quarterback in the league — not to mention the highest paid — but he's in his seventh year and hasn't sniffed a Super Bowl yet.

Before last year, in fact, Manning hadn't even won a playoff game.

Manning knows that as well as anyone. As unflappable as he was on the field Thursday, he became just as flustered afterward when asked about setting an NFL record with at

SEE RECORDS ON PAGE 34



Henson struggles before being pulled; Jones carries Cowboys to victory

Page 34



Led by Palko, Pittsburgh wins the Backyard Brawl and keeps alive BCS hopes

Page 32



Fourth-ranked Texas takes down top-ranked Lady Vols

Page 29

Grizzlies coach steps down because of health issues

Page 30

